

السنة الحادية عشر

Tuesday October 29 1996

Algeria DZ 1.20	Greenland DK 4.00	Norway NK 16
Andorra AD 1.20	Hong Kong HK 2.25	Oman OM 1.00
Austria AT 1.20	Hungary H 2.20	Pakistan PK 2.20
Bahrain BH 2.25	Ireland IE 2.20	Poland PL 2.20
Belgium BF 1.20	Israel IS 2.20	Portugal P 2.20
Canada CA 3.25	Jordan JO 1.25	Romania RO 2.20
Chad TD 1.20	Korea KR 2.20	Russia RU 2.20
Cyprus CY 1.20	Kuwait KW 2.20	Saudi Arabia SA 2.20
Czech Republic CZ 2.20	Latvia LV 2.20	Spain SP 2.20
Denmark DK 4.00	Lithuania LT 2.20	Sweden SE 1.20
Egypt EG 1.20	Luxembourg LU 2.20	Switzerland CH 2.20
France FR 1.20	Malaysia MY 2.20	Taiwan TW 2.20
Germany DM 3.20	Maldives MV 2.20	Turkey TR 2.20
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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,696

Why will no one stop Rupert Murdoch?

## The digital dictator

With European weather



Adrian Searle reviews the short-list

## The men-only Turner Prize

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Education

## Taking the moral high ground in the classroom

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# Head closes pupil-row school

## 'If boy stays I can't guarantee safety'

Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

**T**WO hundred children are unable to attend their school today in the latest confrontation over deteriorating classroom discipline which has set ministers, local authorities, teachers and governors at odds.

A threat by members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers at Manton junior school, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, to strike over a 10-year-old boy who is accused of attacking other pupils yesterday prompted the headteacher to close the school indefinitely on health and safety grounds. He said he could not guarantee the safety of pupils if the boy attended.

The confrontation has fuelled fears of increasingly chaotic school management and discipline, after a crisis inspection at the Ridings school, Halifax, and a national debate over morality and behaviour following the murder of the London headteacher, Philip Lawrence. Parents are also at odds with a Luton primary teacher who allowed a boy to punish classmates with a ruler after they bullied him. She faces disciplinary action.

Graham Lane, Labour education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the Manton teachers' action was outrageous. "We cannot have a situation where teachers are the sole arbiters of who they teach. They are setting the most incredible example to young people because they are bullying tactics."

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, the local education authority, teachers' unions and school governors yesterday blamed each other for the failure to relieve the impasse over Matthew Wilson, whose mother insists he should be taught in normal lessons at Manton and not sent to a special school.

When the eight staff voted to strike if the boy returned to

lessons, Fred Riddell, who chairs Nottinghamshire's education committee, intervened and the governors agreed six weeks ago to individual tuition.

The governing body, which has twice overruled the headteacher, Bill Skelley, when he recommended that Matthew be expelled, is to meet tomorrow. The governors have decided he should return to classes, after spending £2,000 on a supply teacher for the boy.

Eileen Bennett, chairwoman of the governors, accompanied Matthew and his mother, Pamela Cliffe, into school yesterday despite a warning from the council. "He has got a legal right to be in that school," she said. "The lad has done magnificently. It was a lot of money but it has been worthwhile. But I do not think it is a good idea to criminalise a 10-year-old by teaching him in isolation. Teachers have got powerful unions but children have nobody to speak up for them."

Matthew's father had died and his mother had been treated for cancer. "They [teachers] have picked on someone they could batter on. Without the governors supporting her she would have been on her knees."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, said Mrs Bennett had been irresponsible in acting as a counsellor for one family and relinquishing her responsibility for the school. "If she wants to play power politics with the youngsters, she has picked the wrong union."

Governors were not capable of running schools successfully, Mr de Gruchy said. "If a school gets into trouble the governing bodies cannot manage, and turn to the local authority for help and support. But authorities no longer have the ability to intervene."

Mrs Shephard called on the county council to intervene but Mr Riddell said it had no legal powers to do so. Under the Government's policy of local management, governors were responsible for spending and excluding pupils.

Parliament's new moral firm, G2, page 10



Matthew Wilson, whose return prompted new strike threats. He is accused of attacking pupils. PHOTOGRAPH: DOUG MARKE

School crisis: What they say

"He has a legal right to be in that school. The lad has done magnificently... I do not think it is a good idea to criminalise a 10-year-old by teaching him in isolation. Teachers have got powerful unions but children have nobody to speak up for them."

**Eileen Bennett, chairwoman of governors**

"If she wants to play power politics with the youngsters, she has picked the wrong union... Governors are not capable of running schools successfully."

**Nigel de Gruchy, teachers' union leader**

"This is entirely the responsibility of Nottinghamshire county council. I call on the chair of the education committee to announce how he proposes to ensure that pupils at Manton School get the uninterrupted education to which they are entitled."

**Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary**



"This is a dispute between the headteacher, who wanted to permanently exclude a child on two occasions, and the governing body... We have no legal rights to be interfering with this school."

**Fred Riddell, Nottinghamshire education chairman**

"As I am not in a position to guarantee the appropriate health and safety of all the children in the school, I have to tell you that school will be closed tomorrow."

**Bill Skelley, head teacher of Manton junior school, in letter to parents**

## Parties move towards knife ban

Kamal Ahmed, Michael White and Ewan MacAskill

**P**OLITICIANS from all parties were last night moving towards a ban on combat knives, as Michael Howard softened his stance against legislation to outlaw them amid signs that the Labour Party was working on its own proposals.

The Liberal Democrats gave a cautious welcome to an unofficial four-point plan emanating from Labour, with several barristers and police organisations indicating the unpublished document was a good starting point.

The four clauses in the document propose that the suppliers of knives would be required to say what the knives were for; that the selling of knives designed for violence be made an offence; that the marketing and advertising of such knives would also be an offence; and that the police should keep a list of prohibited knife designs which suppliers would have to consult.

As Labour tried to increase the pressure on the Government by launching a national

### The draft proposal

- That suppliers of all knives shall be required to set out the purposes for which they are designed.
- That the selling of knives designed for violence shall be an offence (unless permission be granted for supplying such knives for military purposes).
- That the marketing or advertising of knives and other weapons in a way

which appears to condone or incite violence shall be an offence.

That where a supplier or retailer believes the design of a knife is excessive for the purpose described and that an alternative use for the knife is violence, they shall be required to consult the police, who shall maintain a list of designs which are unsuitable for public sale

petition, Mr Howard offered to act immediately if a satisfactory definition of such weapons was available. His tone was in marked contrast to last week when the Government, after two U-turns on paedophiles and stalking, rejected a Labour offer to discuss a knives ban.

In a Queen's Speech debate yesterday, Jack Straw, brandished a copy of Gun Mart and Accessories, advertising combat knives above his head. He said there was a pal-

pable difference between kitchen knives and combat knives, which he said had "no purpose whatever but maiming and killing people, and should be banned".

Mr Howard has said he will meet Mr Straw if a workable definition is on the table. The four proposals could be the first step towards that.

The Liberal Democrats gave a qualified welcome to the draft document. "I would certainly react favourably to the first three parts of the draft," said Alex Carlisle, the

## Airline jettisons royal tag to avoid conveying a 'negative' image

Nick Varley

**B**RIITAIN'S biggest holiday airline is dropping the word royal from its in-flight service because it no longer conveys the right image.

The Royal Service, introduced four years ago and featuring red, white and blue livery, will be phased out next year. Britannia Airways said yesterday.

Its public relations chief, Richard Hedges, explained: "We have done some market research and have found that the name 'royal' no longer has the kudos and the positive associations it had when we introduced it on flights in 1992."

Publicised on its launch by pictures of a stewardess serving the Prince of Wales, and despite the Princess Royal being a regular customer, it will now go the same way as the television show.

Since 1992 the Royal Family have endured one scandal after another, including both Charles and Diana admitting adultery.

Roger Burnell, managing

director of Luton-based Britannia, which carried 8 million passengers last year, told staff of the changes in a letter which said shifts in public opinion had to be acted upon.

"Research we have carried out indicates that whilst Britannia's exterior livery is still very strong, it is now the right time to introduce a new on board service brand which recognises changing tastes, fashions and lifestyles," he said.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "This decision is a matter for the company, and it is not something we would comment on."

Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, was surprised at the move. "To lose the association with the Queen and the Queen Mother, to mention but two members of the Royal Family, is to lose an advantage beyond price. I cannot believe they can afford to do that," he said.

Many organisations immediately moved to pledge loyalty to the Royal link, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which said it was "quite happy" with its royal charter.

### Inside Britain

The selection of David King's first post-colonial government entered its final phase as 30 people declared their interest.

### World News

The Bank of England will strip off the pound's recent rapid rise and renew its call for an immediate increase in interest rates.

### Finance

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### Sport

Ex-England coach Terry Venables is thought to be interested in the £300,000-a-year job at managerless Blackburn Rovers.

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Crossword 15; Weather 16;  
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Sketch

Howard rattled so the I's have it



Simon Hoggart

THE Home Secretary started badly. "My first priority has always been to protect the public and to create a safer Britain," he plonked. This was met by mocking Labour laughter. It may have put him off his stroke, because when he is ratted Mr Howard's vowels undergo what we phonologists call the "Llanelli Shift" and all turn into the letter L. "Pippie deserve protection," he said. "We wir not lible to come up with a successful definition of a combat knife," he added. The effect is hypnotic. As was his claim that the Government had decided to whip the vote on handguns purely out of concern for the Dunblane parents. "It is our aim to get it on the statute book as quickly as possible so that the pippie of Dunblane can draw a line under it. I do not think a free vote would issist that." This is as if our big-hearted Government had refused to pass strict rules on pension funds, so that the Maxwell victims could forget their experience. The debate descended. The more backbenchers protested that they would not make capital out of Dunblane, the more capital they made. Mr Howard gleefully quoted a letter from Peter Mandelson, in which he had assured a constituent that "pippie such as yourself will still be able to own handguns." (Possibly Mr Mandelson, Tony Blair's spin doctor, had been referring only to guns fitted with silencers which, like him, work, you might say, off the record.) Edward Leigh, a Tory who was rightwinging a song about Mr Major dived to seek him, was worried for gun owners. Would they get the full market rate for their weapons? "They will indid!" said Mr Howard. But what is the market rate for illegal goods?

What they said? What they would fetch in an East End pub? David Mellor suggested that many gun owners thus compensated would go out and buy the still legal .22s, which killed Bobby Kennedy and Yitzhak Shamir. Mr Mellor loathes all weapons, except those which can destroy a city on the other side of the world. He makes a lot of money supporting them. Labour MPs stood up and tried to persuade Mr Howard to frame a law which would ban combat knives. Mr Straw quipped a senior policeman: "If they can get a man on the moon, they can get a definition of a combat knife." (It was reminded of the feminist T-shirt: "If they can get a man on the moon, why not all of them?") He waved an ad. "The Vindicator has no other purpose than maiming and killing," and even from a distance it did not look like the things they give you on planes to eat your food-style lunch. The debate became surrealistic. Dame Elaine Kallit-Bowman rose and sat down, rose and sat down, until she looked like the shower scene of Psycho. She began to shout, and all the knives in the cafeteria went blunt. "It is possible to distinguish between a kitchen knife and this!" shouted Mr Straw, banging his picture of the Vindicator. "Of course I would like to ban combat knives," shouted Mr Howard. The Dame rose menacingly behind him. "But we need a satisfactory definition." Then Dame Elaine began to speak, like Hitchcock's famous screeching violins. "Scree! Scree! Scree!" they go on the soundtrack. "Scratch! Scratch! Scratch!" her voice still echoes in my head. "I happen to be a keen cook! I was the country's Number One housewife!" she boasted. "It would be very difficult to define knives. All it proves is that his wife never let him into her kitchen." A vision of the Dame in her own dream kitchen, viciously smashing a fruit loaf with the Vindicator, floated into my horrified mind. Live Briefs, Steve Bell and Simon Hoggart's satirical look at the political, is published this week by Methuen (£3.99).

Review

Free players show three's company

John Fordham

Tracey/Presencer/Parker Vortex, Stoke Newington

STAN TRACEY, the inimitable English pianist, will be 70 in December, although time appears to be travelling in reverse for him. His look of gothic amusement grows more amiably sardonic by the year. His short tour, which culminated in Appleby, Cumbria, last night, was with a band that will certainly register as one of the memorable ensembles of 1996, and maybe of a longer period than that — particularly if its exploits are recorded. Tracey is playing with trumpeter Gerard Presencer, the regular partner whom he often points out could be his grandson, and with a much more unexpected addition — the free-jazz saxophonist, Evan Parker. The result, equally unexpectedly, makes everybody play better than usual. All three have developed distinctively commanding styles with which they can engage an audience in their sleep. But all three are also occasionally capable of the flippide of their talents, which is to microwave set pieces and recycle them. But on this show everybody listened like hawks and played accordingly. Tracey operating like a rhythm section at the keyboard, with clangs, bumps, tinkling sounds and metallic trills like cymbal patterns; Presencer wrestling out of his neat bebop clothes into something fascinatingly looser; and Parker taking his atonal technique much closer to orthodox intonation to

meet the others. Tracey is a textural pianist anyway, who dislikes tricky scale-running, a quality that unites him with Parker. Tracey and Presencer opened their London show, at the Vortex, with conventional jazz, and after a bit of jogging and warming-up, the latter (on Flugelhorn throughout the night) unleashed an astonishingly resourceful solo on Theon's Monk's "I mean You, double-time runs flying over Tracey's interrogatory arpeggios, sly walking bass effects and prodding chords. The pianist then demonstrated exactly why he has been a hero (often an unsung one) of the British jazz scene for half a century in a ballad solo of woodpecker tappings, clustered runs so impacted as to sound liquid, repeated slurs and suddenly whispered descending harmonies that was an object lesson in lateral use of the piano's resources. All three players came together to close the first set and joined again at the end of the second, after Tracey and Parker had delivered a comically contrasting investigation into free improvisation. They oscillated between jazzy melodic conversation and tennis match exchanges of sharply-struck chords and hollow tenor sax exclamations, seamless soprano sax odysseys that bordered uncannily on a kind of abstract Celtic music, and a joint ability to stop on a sixpence that was all but psychic. Presencer joined them and turned out to be as imaginative a free player as Kenny Wheeler in earlier years; an evening jammed with unpremeditatedly thrilling music.

16 British airports 'have no hi-tech baggage security'

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Department of Transport acknowledged yesterday that nearly half of Britain's airports lack up-to-date baggage screening equipment. A report by David Lord, the department's head of transport security and a former MI5 officer, has found that 16

of the country's 33 airports do not screen all hold baggage. The department says that for security reasons it will not name the airports which have yet to install adequate numbers of machines. These include the CTX 5000 which can detect Semtex. A DOT spokesman said it was up to individual airports to decide what screening equipment to buy.

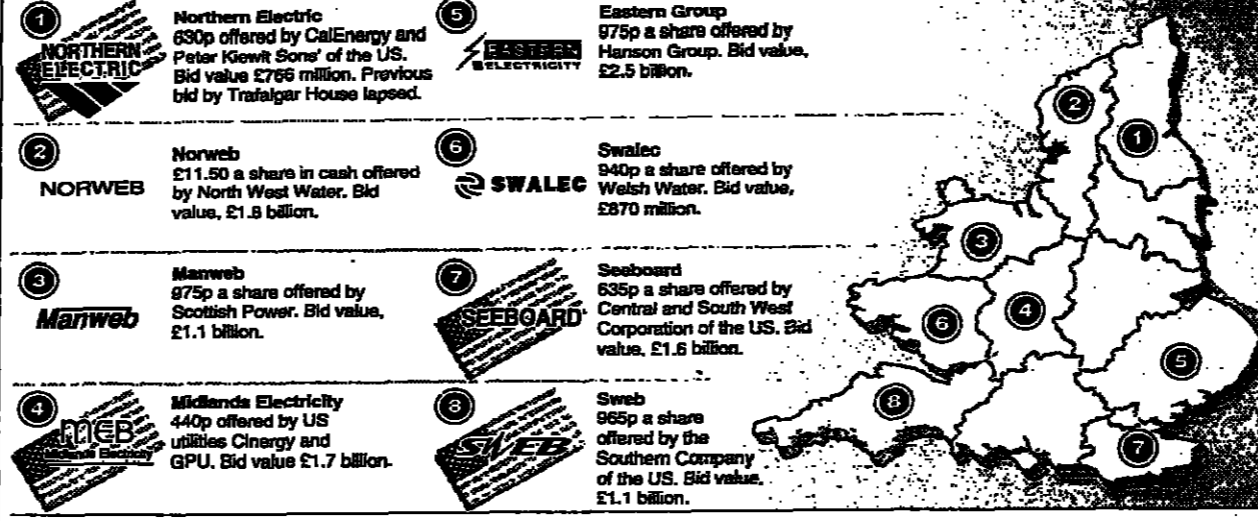
Hostile £766m deal would put one-third of England's electricity supply into hands of American firms

US bid for power company

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

AN AMERICAN generating company launched a hostile £766 million bid for Northern Electric yesterday, which could leave a third of England's power supply firms in American hands. The bid would offer Northern directors the prospect of windfall gains from share options worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. As Nebraska-based CalEnergy launched its 630p a share offer for the Newcastle-based company, shares surged in other power companies on the back of City speculation that other overseas bidders are also poised to launch takeovers before the general election. The speculation came despite indications that the Government is taking a tougher line on utility takeovers. Last Friday Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, blocked the battle between Severn Trent and Wessex Water to snap up South West Water. Northern rejected the bid, claiming that its board had

British power falls to the Americans



been due to meet yesterday morning to consider an informal offer of 700p a share. If successful, CalEnergy, backed by a US construction company called Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc, will become the fourth American group to buy an English regional electricity company. Warning that the bid would

add to uncertainty for Northern's 3,800 employees, Mike Jeram, head of energy at the Union trade union, said: "If this takeover goes ahead it will mean that one third of England's electricity companies will be owned by Americans." With the Government keen to avoid "fat cat" controversy

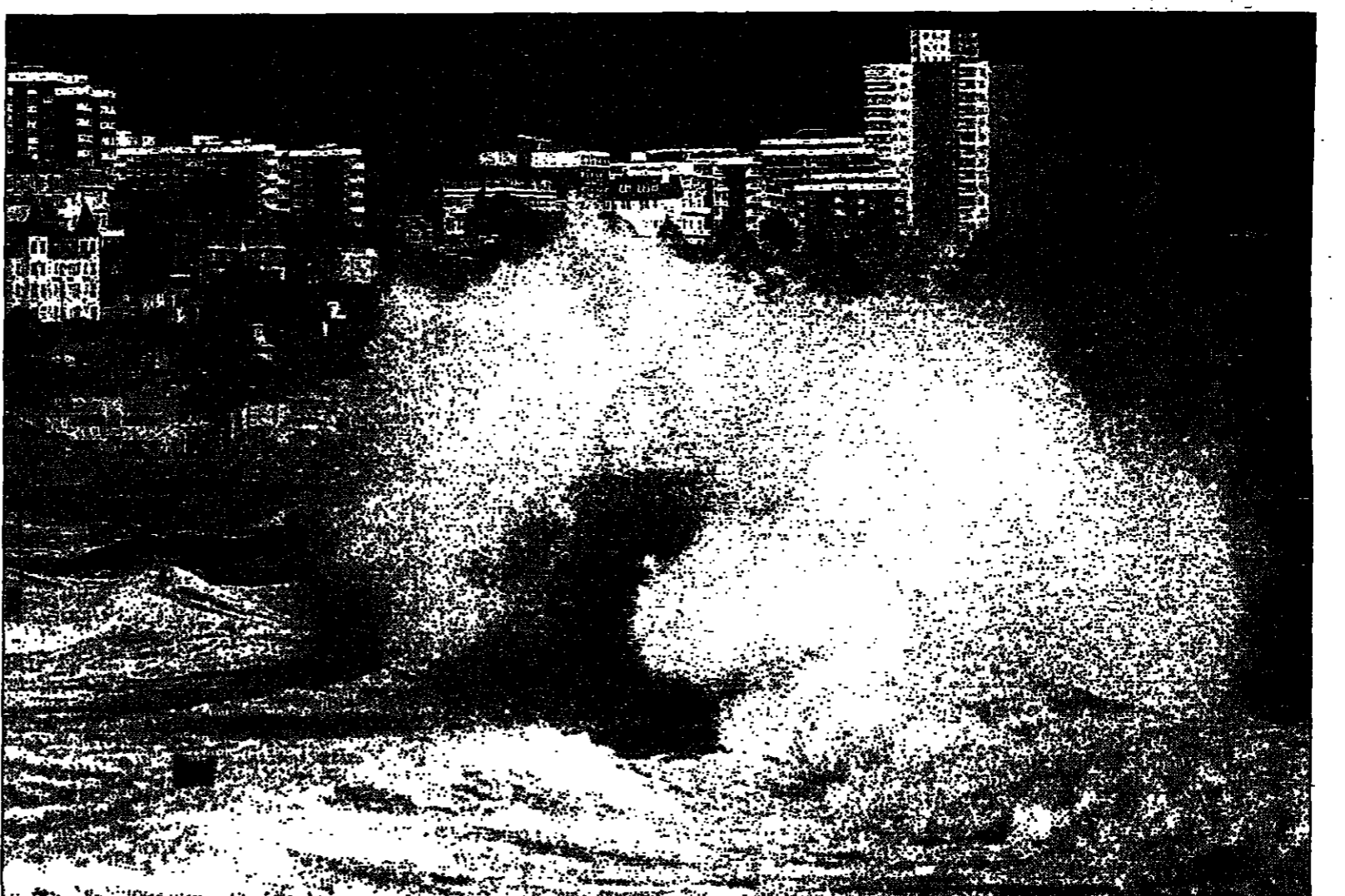
and foreign takeovers in the utilities in the runup to the election, CalEnergy added to the controversy by admitting it had taken into account Labour's plans for a windfall tax in arriving at its valuation for the company. John Battle, shadow energy minister, said companies and the City were already con-

cluding that a windfall tax on utility profits would not damage the industries' strategies. He said: "They are well able to afford to make a contribution to getting 250,000 youngsters back to real work." Mr Battle added that Labour would take steps to ensure US firms could not "salt money away" into other

accounts when it was made from regulated industries such as electricity. CalEnergy's chairman and chief executive, David Sokol, said job prospects for Northern Electric employees should be enhanced by the takeover, which was aimed at building up the group's overseas businesses. Although Northern's 1.5 million consumers across the North-East were to be offered no direct benefit, Mr Sokol said they would do better under CalEnergy's strategy of boosting efficiency and cutting the cost of power. But the bid was opposed by the National Consumer Council, which called on Mr Lang to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the grounds that it appeared to be against the public interest. CalEnergy builds and operates power stations in the US, Indonesia and the Philippines with assets of \$3.5 billion (£2.35 billion). Mr Sokol has pursued an aggressive expansion strategy at the little-known company, raising its market value from \$300 million to \$1.9 billion today. **Reader faces battle, page 12**

4 die as gales strike

A THREE-year-old boy was orphaned yesterday as four people died in gales which lashed much of the country, writes Mick Worley. Luke Holliday was in the back of a car driven by his father, Paul, near their home near Bradford, West Yorkshire, when a 30ft tree toppled on to it. Mr Holliday, aged 33, and his partner, Elaine Bell, 39, died at the scene. The boy was treated for minor injuries. In Wales two anglers died after being swept out to sea. Coastguards recovered the body of Paul Jones, aged 25, who was swept from a pier at Swansea West, Dec on Sunday night. Another fisherman, aged 24, was swept away on Saturday near Ogmere-by-Sea, Mid Glamorgan. Last night forecasters warned that worse may come as winds of more than 50mph were recorded off the Welsh coast. A London Weather Centre spokesman said: "There will be gusts even higher than that running through the valleys and on exposed hilltops and winds will reach 60mph in the north."



Storms lash the Bournemouth seafont yesterday. The London Weather Centre warned that worse may come PHOTOGRAPH: LEIGH GREEN

Rugby tackle led to death

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

AN OXFORD University rugby player who sustained serious head injuries during a match at the weekend died at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London, it emerged yesterday. Ian Tucker, aged 23, died after tackling a Saracens player who was scoring a try. "The [Saracens] player was diving over the line and Ian was caught underneath him as the player landed on the ground," said Steve Hill, director of rugby at Oxford University. Mr Tucker's death highlights the fact that rugby is the most dangerous sport in Britain. A Sports Council survey in 1991 found 50 "substantive" injuries per 1,000 occasions of participation. There are up to 12 cases of "catastrophic" injuries in



Ian Tucker... suffered serious head injuries

rugby every year, according to Greg McLatchie, director of the National Sports Medicine Unit. At least 15 British rugby players have died since 1970, although some deaths have been heart-related. The rugby authorities have changed some rules to reduce the risk of serious injury. Mr Tucker, who was born in South Africa, had been tipped to win a place in Oxford's team for the Varsity Match against Cambridge on December 10, having impressed officials after arriving from Sydney University. He had appeared for New South Wales up to under-21 level and he represented Australia under-19s against New Zealand in 1992. There will be a minute's silence for the player before the Australia v Scotland A match on Saturday. "We are very saddened by the news," said Peter Falk, manager of the Australian team. "Some of the players in the squad knew him and played with him." Oxford University will be playing their traditional fixture against Major Stanley's XV tomorrow as planned. "It is the wish of Ian's family that the fixture will take place as planned," a university spokesperson said.

New health scare as Yeltsin cancels meetings

David Hearst in Moscow

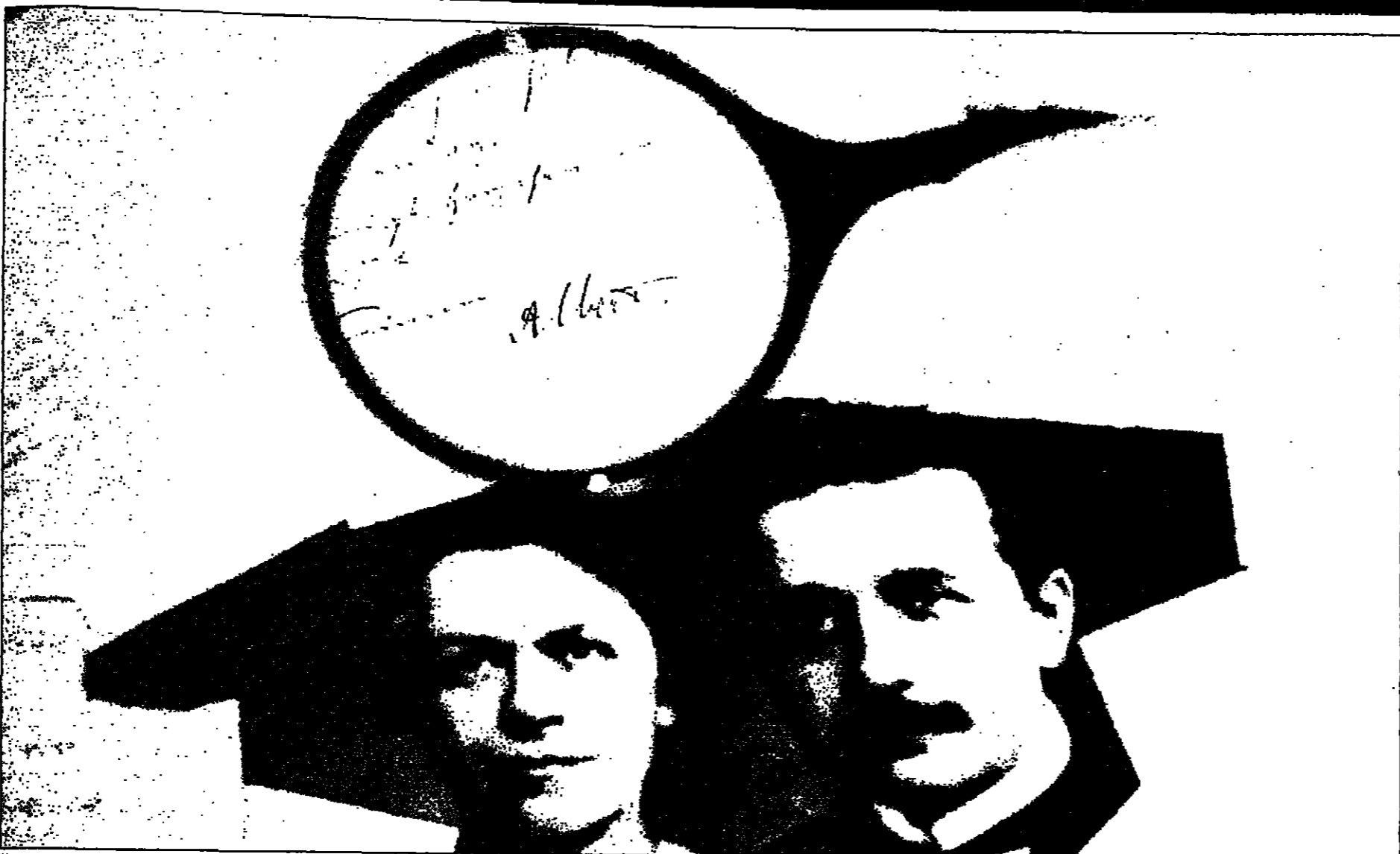
DOCTORS treating President Boris Yeltsin yesterday abruptly cancelled his scheduled meetings this week, up to a month before he is due to undergo surgery for a heart bypass. The Kremlin said this would enable him to have a "special regime" of pre-operative tests. But it did not say what the tests were, or set a date for the operation. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the president's spokesman, said the doctors had ordered complete rest while Mr Yeltsin undergoes the tests and that his meetings with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, would be cancelled. "The preparations have

entered their final stage. Everything is proceeding as normal," he said. But it is known that these meetings were still on schedule up to four days ago. Successive visitors to Mr Yeltsin's bedside in his sanatorium, outside Moscow, have commented on his mental agility. These statements helped to persuade a sceptical and feuding political elite that he was still controlling the levers of power. The fact that the meetings have been cancelled could mean either that the tests are more serious than have been admitted, or he is about to have his operation, much sooner than expected. Michael DeBakey, the eminent American cardiologist, was quoted by an Italian

newspaper as saying no complications had been found and the operation would go ahead in the last two weeks of November. "If there are no complications — and I repeat, there are none right now — the operation will take place at the end of November," he told the Rome-based Corriere della Sera yesterday. He said doctors had cured anaemia caused by intestinal haemorrhages. He added that the left ventricle of the heart was the main risk to the operation. However, a month ago, Renat Akchurin, the Russian surgeon heading the operating team, said the contractive function of the heart had improved, reducing the risk of an operation.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance. Features a large illustration of a hand holding a pen, with text: "Down goes the cost of your motor and home contents insurance with our no claims discount. Call now for details." Includes contact numbers: 0800 121 000 for Motor Insurance, 0800 121 004 for Buildings & Contents, and 0800 121 008 for Mortgage Payment Protection. Website: http://www.ga.co.uk/gadirect

### Love-child abandoned to unknown fate



A letter from Einstein to his first wife Mileva (pictured), one of the 55 which are expected to fetch £2 million at auction next month

## Letters reveal fickle, sentimental Einstein

John Ezard

**A**LBERT EINSTEIN'S sentimental but transient feelings for his first wife and their premarital love-child are disclosed in letters to be auctioned in New York next month.

The correspondence, expected to fetch £2 million, shows the great physicist's copious affection for his first child, Lieserl. Yet he and his wife, Mileva, were to abandon her within months to a life which remains unknown. He never referred to her again.

He uses a similar tone with Mileva — and used it again when he became close to his second wife, his cousin Elsa, 10 years later. Lieserl's existence was unknown until scholars found the 55 letters from Mileva in a family archive of 500 papers in a Los Angeles bank vault in 1986. They are being sold by descendants of the couple.

Einstein met Mileva, who was Serbian, as a fellow



Mileva with Eduard, left, and Hans Albert, whom she bore to Einstein (right) after their first child was apparently given up

physics student at Zurich Polytechnic. She helped him substantially with his studies on relativity. They lived together, although Einstein's mother warned of disaster if she became pregnant.

Lieserl was born in 1902, when he was 23. Einstein, who was not with her at the time, wrote: "Now you see

that it really is a Lieserl, just as you wished. Is she healthy, and does she cry properly?"

"What are her eyes like? Which one of us does she more resemble? Who is giving her milk? Is she hungry?"

"I love her so much and don't even know her yet!" But when Mileva

returned to Switzerland months after the birth, she came alone. Felix Oyens, a London specialist for auctioneers Christies, said: "They gave her up, presumably for adoption, although no one is sure."

Einstein's last reference to their daughter came in a letter written when Mileva was in Serbia, pregnant

with their second child. "I'm not in the least bit angry that poor Dollie [Mileva] is hatching a new chick," he wrote. "In fact I'm happy about it and had already given some thought to whether I shouldn't see to it that you get a new Lieserl."

"I'm very sorry about what has befallen Lieserl.

It's so easy to suffer lasting effects from scarlet fever. As what is the child registered? We must take precautions that problems don't arise for her later."

Since her birth was discovered, Einstein scholars have worked in vain to discover her fate.

Einstein during this time called Mileva "my dear kitten", "my dearest little child" and most frequently "my dear sweetheart". He wrote: "When I am not with you I feel as if I'm not whole."

"I'll be so happy and proud when we live together and can bring our work on relative motion to successful conclusion."

But by 1912 he was telling Elsa he loved her. "I have to have someone to love, otherwise life is miserable. And this someone is you."

When the family moved to Berlin, Mileva hated the city and was rejected by Einstein's mother. In 1917 Elsa moved in to care for him. He later divorced Mileva and married Elsa.

### Jack Tinker, perfectly cast critic and friend of British theatre, dies aged 58



Jack Tinker... 'evangelist but no pushover'

Dan Glaister Arts Correspondent

**J**ACK Tinker, the Daily Mail critic and one of the best-known figures in British theatre, died yesterday at the age of 58. It is understood he had a heart attack in hospital after being taken ill with asthma at his Brighton home on Sunday night.

Mr Tinker was the Daily Mail's theatre critic for 25 years, writing daily reviews for page three.

He was born in Oldham, attending Hulme Grammar School for Boys before entering journalism as a reporter

on the Surrey Advertiser. From there he joined the Brighton Evening Argus as a film and theatre critic before moving to the Daily Sketch as a feature writer in 1970. The Mail and the Sketch merged and the following year he became theatre critic on the Daily Mail.

Theatre impresario Cameron Mackintosh, who knew Mr Tinker well, said last night: "He was probably one of my longest, closest friends in theatre. He was a friend, confidant and critic — a curious mix."

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "Jack was one of the few people who remained a true

friend whilst being a totally impartial critic. He passionately cared for the theatre."

Richard Eyre, director of the Royal National Theatre, who knew Mr Tinker for 25 years, also paid tribute. "He was perfectly cast. He really understood his audience and what he was writing about. He was an evangelist, a propagandist and an enthusiast but he wasn't a pushover. It would be quite unfair to characterise him as someone who was indiscriminately in love with the theatre."

Mr Eyre also expressed admiration for Mr Tinker's ability to dress appropriately for the theatre. "I loved the way

he dressed in the character of the show. He would dress up if it was a musical, and dress down if it was something gritty."

The Daily Mail's deputy managing editor, Garth Burden, said: "He was a wonderful journalist and will be sadly missed here. He was a very approachable person and did a wonderful job for the newspaper."

Mr Tinker had just returned from a trip to New York, from where he had filed a report on Broadway. On the return journey, he performed his one-man show, An Evening With Jack Tinker, on the QE2.

Fellow critic Michael Coveney of the Observer said yesterday: "Critic dies, a nation mourns may sound funny, but Jack embodied some sort of spirit in the theatre. He was an hysterically funny man. He was always immaculately turned out. He used to be dressed by Mothercare and Miss Selfridge, and then one day he turned up in Jean-Paul Gaultier."

Mr Tinker, who wrote several books as well as his journalistic duties, is survived by two daughters and his former wife.

Obituary, page 10

## Home town universities considered

James Melkie

**T**HOUSANDS more students would start their university courses at local further education colleges under proposals being studied by a government-appointed inquiry into higher education.

They might spend up to two years on home town campuses, often reading for new "associate degrees", before completing their studies elsewhere or seeking work with job-oriented qualifications.

Ministers want to reverse the trend for degree-level courses becoming the norm in the higher education system, while Labour believes the ideas could mean renewed expansion without huge extra costs subsidising students living away from home.

A team working for the inquiry, headed by Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's education spokesman, is in the United States studying standards of its two-year associate degrees and four-year honours degrees, their value on the job market, and the transfer of students between different types of institution.

The number of students in higher education has doubled in Britain over the last 10 years to more than 1.6 million. Postgraduate student numbers have more than doubled to 350,000, and those on undergraduate degree courses have more than doubled to more than one million. However, those on sub-degree courses, 274,000, have hardly changed, accounting for only one in six students.

The Government has temporarily halted expansion, with about one in three 18 to 22-year-olds having some higher education. But it aims for 40 per cent participation rates,

with further growth in the number of mature students. Ministers, in their submission to the Dearing inquiry, called for a dramatic increase in sub-degree work.

The US has well-established links between two-year junior, community colleges and technical colleges, liberal arts colleges and universities offering four-year courses, and professional colleges and research and graduate schools.

Any attempt to borrow American methods of mass higher education would involve changing the status of further education colleges in Britain. Only 5 per cent of their students study for higher level qualifications, few to degree level, and while some links are developing between the colleges and universities, they are nothing like as established.

Bryan Davies, the shadow spokesman for higher education, said: "Dearing would not be fulfilling its obligations if it were not casting its net widely for interesting developments and ideas for expanding education opportunity and making it, in certain areas, more cost-effective."

Labour has already suggested a year of study at a home university followed by completion of courses elsewhere could keep down costs and reduce pressure on university accommodation.

The Association of Colleges expressed its support for the Dearing study while David Melville, chief executive of the Further Education Funding Council for England, said the expansion into more advanced courses should build on the colleges' traditions of helping older, part-time, more job-oriented students.

Two-track minds, Q2 Education, page 11.

## Willetts hearing to be televised

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

**T**HE Government agreed to go ahead with the televising of high-flying junior minister David Willetts in the cash for questions affair, despite protests from Tory MPs last night.

The Commons Standards and Privileges Committee decided to have a televised hearing on November 11 after asking the Government to hand over memoranda from the Whips Office next week.

Mr Willetts will face questions over a memo he wrote about trying to influence an investigation into whether Neil Hamilton, the disgraced former trade minister, had taken cash from Mohammed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods. Mr Willetts, then a junior whip, suggested the committee could use its Tory majority to smother the affair or stop the inquiry because of the then impending libel case against the Guardian.

The committee will today publish a report showing how it intends to handle the inquiry and what assistance Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, will receive to investigate the MPs involved.

Two MPs, Sir David Mitchell and Sir Archie Hamilton, had to leave the proceedings while MPs discussed their im-

partiality. Sir David is understood to have made it clear he had no brief for Neil Hamilton, his parliamentary private secretary.

Labour MP Dale Campbell Savours was asked to comment on claims he was pro Mr Al Fayed following a complaint to the Speaker yesterday by Tory MP David Shaw, whose Dover constituency association took £500 from lobbyists Ian Greer Associates.

Mr Shaw, a close friend of David Allen, the head of courier company DHL, which donated the cash to Ian Greer, raised questions about the tabling of 59 motions by Mr Campbell Savours which, he said, benefitted the Harrods boss in his battle with Tiny Rowland. "I wonder if it would be of concern to you and your office if a member of the Standards and Privileges Committee had taken a very strong position in the battle between Tiny Rowland and Al Fayed and had put down 58 Early Day Motions on one side, Mr Al Fayed's? In those circumstances, would it not be in the interests of the Commons if that member did stand down from the committee?"

Mr Campbell Savours said: "The complaint was a blatant attempt to nobble the jury, inspired by Ian Greer, to ensure an unfair hearing. [It] is preposterous given these motions were in public and I never met Mr Al Fayed."

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# 4 BRITAIN

## News in brief

### Raped girl seized in high street

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl was receiving counselling as police hunted three men who abducted her as she walked on a high street in the Kings Heath area of Birmingham and raped her repeatedly during a 12-hour ordeal. The girl, from West Heath, was approached by three males in their mid to late 20s who began making "derogatory remarks" before she was bundled screaming into a four-door car by the men who drove off from the busy shopping street. She was taken to an unknown building and raped by all three men before being thrown out of the vehicle in the Northfield area 12 hours later at 3.30am. A West Midlands Police spokesman described the incident as a "horrendous attack on a lone young girl in broad daylight".

### £7,000 for neck pain

A WOMAN whose neck problem was aggravated by her work checking lingerie was yesterday awarded £7,000 High Court damages. Olive Jacobs, aged 56, of Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire, had claimed that her job as a recent examiner for Cortaulds Textiles (Holdings) Ltd at their factory at St Neots, Cambridgeshire, led to persistent neck pain which forced her to give up work in January 1990. Mr Justice Roush said that her existing condition of cervical spondylosis was mainly to blame but her employers were at fault in not doing all they could to help when her neck problems became plain. The damages included £2,000 for pain and suffering with the balance made up of lost wages.

### Mother and children die

POLICE are treating as suicide the death of 28-year-old Diane Larmour whose body was found with those of her son Matthew, five, and four-year-old daughter Rebecca in a car in a garage at a house in Borrowash, near Derby, yesterday. Detective Superintendent Phil Harding, of Derbyshire police, said: "At this stage there is nothing to suggest that anyone else was involved."

### £12m cannabis capture

POLICE and customs officers say they have halted a £12 million operation to smuggle cannabis from North Africa after they boarded a soft British registered yacht Fata Morgana in treacherous conditions off the coast of Cornwall. Four men were arrested on the yacht and four waiting on the shore. There were further related arrests in Bristol, Cheltenham, Hull and London.

### Car family saved

A QUALIFIED lifesaver Susan Walters, 35, helped keep a family afloat for 20 minutes after they escaped from their car which had plunged off a dock into 60 feet of water during a force six gale at Exmouth, Devon. The driver, a businessman Paul Nightgale, his wife Ann and their 11-year-old daughter, Ann, were treated in hospital for shock.

### Circus's London drive

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, a Canadian circus which uses no performing animals, is planning a recruitment drive in London for 125 people to perform in four different shows across three continents. The circus, combines athleticism with showmanship.

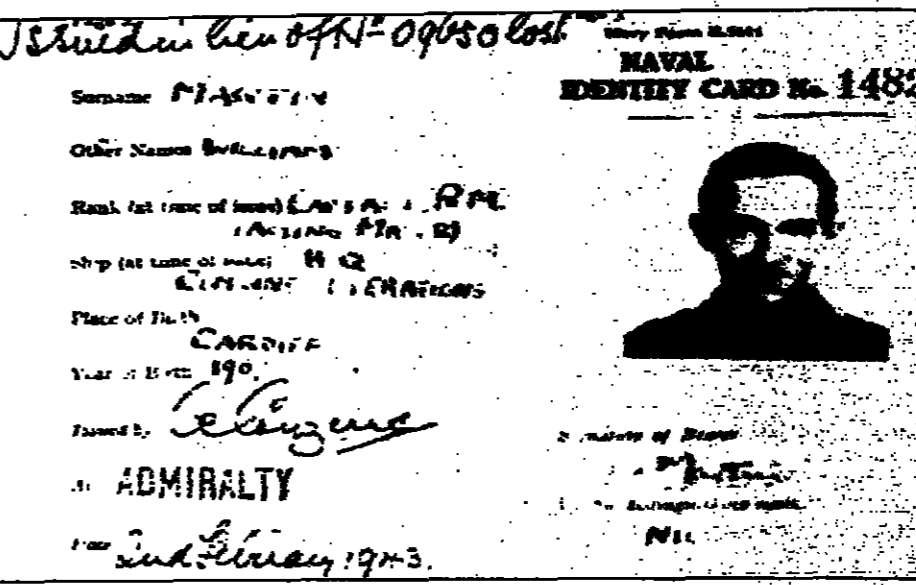
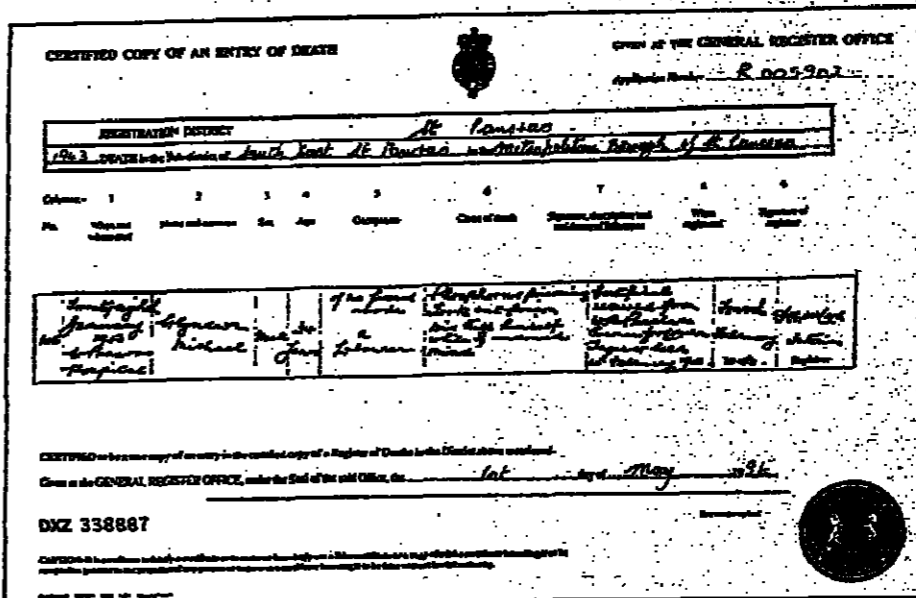
### Boost for bitterns

THE European Commission is expected to inject more than £1 million into a project to secure the future of the bittern, one of Britain's rarest birds, by repairing and restoring marshland and reed beds in East Anglian areas like Minsmere, Suffolk, where the birds have their stronghold. The number of male bitterns is unknown, but at least 22 different males, who utter a characteristic booming sound, have been identified by computer print-outs of the pitch of the calls.

## John Ezard on the Man Who Never Was



Michael's grave in Spain (left) and identity card (bottom right) carry the name Major William Martin. Now Michael's identity has been revealed and a death certificate (top right) issued.

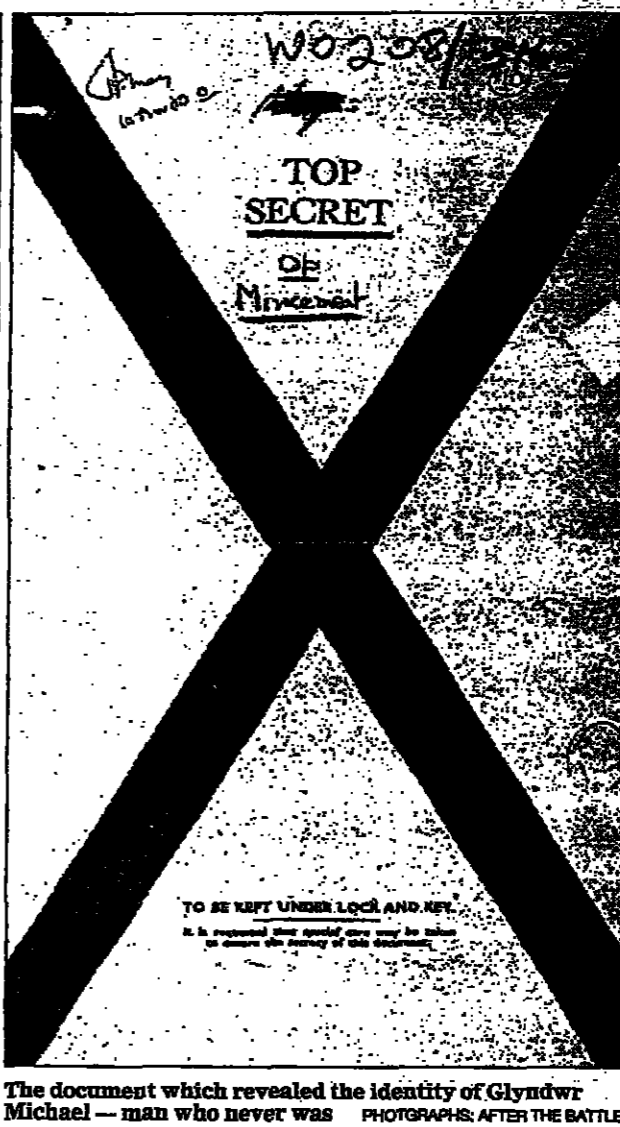


# Mystery warrior identified

### Last chapter is written in one of wartime's strangest deceptions

ONE of the lingering mysteries of the second world war — the identity of The Man Who Never Was — has been solved by the persistence of an amateur researcher. The man was Glyndwr Michael, aged 34, a homeless, mentally ill Welshman who killed himself with rat poison 53 years ago. His body was used in a British Intelligence operation which misled Nazi Germany and saved thousands of British lives in the allied conquest of Italy. Only three men — one of them Winston Churchill —

found the name in a government document on deception operations. "It was an incredible moment," he said. Glyndwr Michael was born illegitimate in Aberbered, Mid-Glamorgan. Unemployed, he moved to London and lived as a tramp. He was rejected for war service as mentally ill. On January 28 he ate phosphorous poison in a warehouse and died. The verdict was suicide. His body attracted attention because the coroner knew through a friend, the forensic pathologist Sir Bernard Spilbury, that naval intelligence was seeking a corpse. It had to be of a man in his mid-30s whose cause of death could be confused with drowning. Michael's remains became the centrepiece of Operation Mincemeat, a scheme to convince Germany that the allies would invade Nazi Europe through Greece or Sardinia rather than Sicily. Packed in dry ice, Michael was taken from Hackney mortuary, put aboard a submarine, then cast into the sea near Gibraltar. Chained to his wrist was a briefcase with forged official papers hinting at bogus landings. In his wallet were marks of a successful life he never had, including a snapshot of a fiancée in a swimsuit. These named him as Major William Martin. The body was found by a Spanish fisherman. The documents reached German authorities in Madrid. Within days Britain knew that the German high command thought the papers genuine. His catch name is inscribed on his headstone: "Mincemeat swallowed rod-



The document which revealed the identity of Glyndwr Michael — man who never was. PHOTOGRAPHS AFTER THE BATTLE

### 16 British airports 'have no hi-tech baggage security'

Richard Norton-Taylor  
THE Department of Transport acknowledged yesterday that nearly half of Britain's airports lack up-to-date baggage screening equipment but said security procedures were well in advance of those in other countries, including the United States. A report by David Lord, the department's head of transport security and a former MI5 officer, has found that 16 of the country's 33 airports do not screen all hold baggage. The department says that for security reasons it will not name the airports which have yet to install adequate numbers of machines. These include the CTX 5000, costing about \$650,000, which X-rays luggage and can detect Semtex and RDX explosives. MI5 spokesman for the British Airports Authority said that all transfer baggage — the source of the bomb which blew up the PanAm jumbo over Lockerbie in 1988 — was screened at its seven airports. Hold baggage going to "high risk" destinations, mainly the Middle East, is screened, as is baggage destined for countries which security services advise are terrorist targets. The BAA runs Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Southampton, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen airports. A Department of Transport spokesman said it was up to individual airports to decide what screening equipment to buy. He said 17 airports had already installed equipment to screen all baggage. "British international airports have more baggage screening machines than the rest of the world put together," he said. In the US, only San Francisco and Atlanta airports operate modern baggage screening equipment. Airlines are responsible for screening hold baggage, while airports are responsible for screening passengers and cabin baggage.

### Motorists go down memory lane as M25 celebrates 10 years

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor  
A MAN whose hobby is driving round the M25 will not be able to celebrate its 10th anniversary today, because he is selling his A registered Ford Fiesta for a newer, faster model. Mark Reed, a 21-year-old Safeway counter assistant from Weymouth, Dorset, cannot get enough of the motorway most drivers love to hate. Even the Government will today draw back from extolling the virtues of a 70-mile stretch of road which is responsible for half the country's motorway congestion. "It'll be business as usual. We really don't want to make a fuss," explained the Highways Agency. Mr Reed, who has already taken his mother on several 120-mile shopping expeditions round Britain's most heavily used motorway said: "There's no road quite like it. It's the ultimate driving experience. You have to keep your wits about you at all times." Another person prepared to glow about the M25 is Kevin Delaney, the RAC's traffic and road safety manager. "It is a national asset, moving huge volumes of traffic with a degree of efficiency that belies the under investment in carriageway improvements." Bizarre incidents have become everyday occurrences during its difficult decade:   
□ Grandfather William Allen, aged 84, spent two days circling it looking for his daughter's home.   
□ Retired dustman George Tilbury slept in hedges after becoming lost on his motorbike on a journey which should have taken 30 minutes.   
□ A police car rescued an elderly woman cycling the wrong way down the outside lane at Godstone, Surrey.

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### If you talk to politicians, broadcasters, government departments and the regulatory bodies that are charged with overseeing the introduction of digital broadcasting in a little over a year's time, you find a mixture of trust, ignorance and defeatism that you know can only result in commercial triumph for Murdoch.

## Henry Porter, G2 cover story

# Man v 'expo'

Starting more sm...

Starting a business... just a case... for things to... the support of... That's why... For the lost... best choice for... experience has...



# West Bank war games belie peace talk

Israel's prime minister is being harried by his increasingly disenchanted and fractious supporters to renege on the Palestinian peace agreement signed by his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin, writes **Shyam Bhatia** in Jerusalem

**M**AJOR-GENERAL Uzi Dayan watched as Israeli troops participated in a mock battle last week to recapture the Palestinian city of Nablus. Gen Dayan, a nephew of Israel's war hero, the late Moshe Dayan, is military commander of the West Bank. Tanks and helicopters used live ammunition as paratroopers stormed a cardboard replica of the Nabulus cashah and hung the Star of David from its ramparts. Israeli soldiers disguised as Palestinian policemen fought back unsuccessfully as the army, spearheaded by elite commando units, tightened its grip on the city. Gen Dayan, using the tactics deployed by his illustrious uncle in the 1967 Middle East war, needed only a few hours to complete a mission that took Moshe Dayan six days to accomplish. The war fever that grips Israel's military top brass today has a chilling similarity to the mood that prevailed on the outbreak of the 1967 hostilities. In private some army generals, including Gen Dayan, admit to a sense of personal humiliation following last month's bloody confrontations with the Palestinians. The Israelis lost 15 soldiers in

## Negotiations stutter over withdrawal

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

**T**HE Israel-PLO peace talks went into suspended animation yesterday, as the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, left for talks in Norway and Ireland, and the United States mediator Dennis Ross returned to Washington. After more than three weeks of talks about the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the West Bank city of Hebron, each side is still complaining about the other's tactics. Officials were meeting last night in an effort to break the impasse. Mr Ross said that the Palestinian leader's absence would hamper the process and Israeli officials blamed Mr Arafat for stalling the talks. But the PLO chief said in Oslo that he had come for "another push from outside" to help avoid a negotiating deadlock. The European Union yesterday appointed a special envoy to the Middle East peace talks — despite Israeli opposition and strong misgivings in the United States. EU foreign ministers said in Luxembourg that the present Spanish ambassador to Israel, Miguel Angel Moratinos, would represent the European Union in the negotiations. Mr Moratinos has also been told to report to the EU — the largest source of international aid for the region — any breach of the

agreement covering the status of Jerusalem. There are ominous signals that extremists on both sides are preparing to sabotage the peace process, with reports in recent days that Palestinians and Jewish settlers in Hebron are stockpiling illegal weapons and outbreaks of violence between settlers and Arabs in the region. To add to his problems, Mr Netanyahu has been told the army needs 8.5 billion shekels (£1.6 billion) because of an increased chance of war with Syria. Yesterday the defence minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, told a parliamentary committee the Israeli forces planned a big Syrian military exercise and were "taking the necessary steps for maximum alertness." At least three of Mr Netanyahu's cabinet colleagues have warned they will resign if he implements the Oslo agreement. They say the issue of Hebron is "only the first phase of a dangerous process. Other milestones — such as freeing Palestinian security prisoners and creating safe corridors between Gaza and the West Bank — are just as unacceptable." "The right is very divided," said Kiyam Haretzi, a lawyer and West Bank settler. "If Netanyahu steps into Rabin's shoes, I am confident a new political party will be formed because Likud will no longer represent the right." "Agreements with Arafat are written on sand. Therefore the only thing of value is that our army should be able to enter Hebron at any time and for any reason. If this is not to be, Hebron will be like Nabulus, a second Sarajevo of the Middle East."

whirlwind of the right's pent-up anger. The prime minister has already committed himself to the principle of Israel's military withdrawal from the city, where 400 Jewish ideologues live among more than 100,000 Arabs. As the countdown for the withdrawal gets under way, Israelis are once again talking about the "writing on the wall." Jewish fanatics have threatened violence to prevent Mr Arafat's "uninvited thugs" from entering the city. Today thousands of Netanyahu supporters will meet in central Jerusalem to hold a rally against his intention to compromise on Hebron. One organiser, Nadia Mattar, said:

"Hebron is a test. If they pull out, we will all protest and demonstrate. To say that we are very worried is a mild expression. We understand that what the government has already agreed is not very different from before." Last weekend, Ms Mattar and her supporters published full-page advertisements in Israeli newspapers addressed to the prime minister. "Oslo gave guns to Arab police who used them to kill our soldiers. Their blood cries out not to repeat that grave error in Hebron. In September 1995 you said the Israeli army must retain sole responsibility for the security of Hebron; this authority cannot be divided or it will bring on disaster."

"Netanyahu voters expected him to end or at least suspend the policy of pull-backs," said Yisrael Harel, one of the leaders of 150,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "But instead he rushed off to meet Arafat in Washington. There, nauseatingly, he grovelled and called Arafat his 'friend' and 'partner'." Disappointment with Mr Netanyahu is shared across the spectrum of Israel's right wing. Like Rabin, he is being branded a traitor for agreeing to give the Palestinians control over more parts of the West Bank. If and when Mr Netanyahu hands over the West Bank city of Hebron to Mr Arafat, he will reap the

predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin. "It's not an easy situation," says a source in the prime minister's office. "Anything that's good for the Palestinians is bad for Israel and anything that's good for Israel is bad for the Palestinians. It's not clear to us how we can escape from this trap." Many of Mr Netanyahu's supporters say war is the only solution. Some pray that the Palestinians will initiate hostilities and provide the Israeli army with an excuse to retaliate and drive the final nail into the Oslo coffin. They are critical of the prime minister for not seizing the strategic opportunity that was presented to him during last month's mini-intifada.



Rescue teams find survivors after collapse of Cairo flats

**R**ESCUE workers looked for survivors yesterday in the rubble of a 12-storey block of flats that collapsed in Heliopolis, Cairo. Using cranes they rescued 15 people, but dozens of others were still believed

trapped inside. A total of 15 bodies have been removed and police say more than 60 people remain unaccounted for. Six survivors were rescued on Sunday. Police detained a building contractor and an engineering consultant for questioning, saying they may have been responsible for weakening the building's structure by ordering the removal of walls during the renovation of a flat. The building's owner was also

arrested. Some residents of the 40 flats jumped from their balconies as the building crumbled, a neighbour, Ahmed Mohammed, said. All but the back side of the building fell, piling debris five storeys high.

As cranes moved enormous slabs of concrete yesterday, dogs prowled the ruins and listening devices were brought in to help trace calls or tapping for help. — AP.

PHOTOGRAPH: ENRIC MARTI

### News in brief

#### Corsican separatist claims Paris talks

**FRANCOIS** Santoni, the head of the Corsican separatist *Cuncoletta* Nationalist party, said yesterday that his group had held secret talks with members of the French government, including Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, a senior aide of the prime minister, Alain Juppé. But Mr Juppé's office dismissed the claims as "grotesque lies by a terrorist". Mr Santoni's party is the legal wing of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), the most hardline group on the island. He also alleged in an interview with the *Republique* newspaper that a rally in January of 600 heavily armed FLNC guerrillas was organised at the behest of the government, which wanted to show the French public that the group was popular in Corsica and should be negotiated with. Meanwhile, separatists continued a bombing campaign with an attack against the home of the mayor of the northern town of Bastia early yesterday. Emilio Zaccarelli was out at the time and no one was hurt. — *Reuters, Paris.*

#### Rwanda denies helping rebels

The Rwandan president, Pasteur Bizimungu, yesterday denied that his country was providing military help to the Tutsi Banyamulenge rebels in eastern Zaire, and that Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army had been involved in shelling refugee camps housing Rwandan Hutus in eastern Zaire. But he said he morally supported the Banyamulenge's struggle against "extermination" by Zairean authorities. Observers strongly suspect the Rwandan military of assisting the Zairean Tutsi militias. "We are not supporting the Banyamulenge military. We are not interested in the conquest of land, but people's rights must be respected. The Banyamulenge are entitled to live in Zaire," Mr Bizimungu said. "Morally I support their struggle between extermination and survival. I support their resistance against the Zairean authorities." Mr Bizimungu, a Hutu, accused Zaire of being the troublemaker in the Great Lakes region. "Zaire has allowed traffic of arms in the refugee camps. It has armed and trained the refugees," he said. — *Reuters, Kigali.*

#### Cult cover-up costs job

A SENIOR Tokyo police official was abruptly replaced yesterday because his department had concealed a confession by one of its own officers to the shooting of the chief of the national police agency last year. The Tokyo metropolitan police department first heard the confession of the 31-year-old officer in May but did not tell anyone outside the department until last week, local news accounts said. Takaji Kumimatsu was shot and seriously wounded on March 30 last year, 10 days after the nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway by members of the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult. The officer who has confessed to the shooting was apparently a cult follower, and Japanese media reported that he told investigators he shot Mr Kumimatsu on orders from senior cult leaders. The Tokyo police department's chief of public security, Masaru Sakurai, was not fired outright but was given a replacement position. He had been in charge of the investigation into Mr Kumimatsu's shooting. — *AP, Tokyo.*

#### Colombo quiet on shootings

**SRI LANKA'S** foreign affairs ministry yesterday refused to comment on claims by the Tamil Tigers that Colombo was behind the killing of two of the group's officials in Paris on Saturday. A statement from the Tigers' international secretary in London condemned the killing of their treasurer, Kandiah Perinpanathan, and Kandiah Gajendran, editor of the Tamil weekly newspaper *Kela Muralu*. It said the killings were part of the Sri Lankan government's attempt to hit the rebels' finances, and appeared to blame Tamils co-operating with Colombo. — *Reuters, Colombo.*

#### Bill deliveries delight Danes

**DANISH** police said yesterday that they had identified a mysterious person who distributed around 75,000 kroner (€3,000) to strangers in the western town of Skanderborg. The person, who put a hand-written note in each envelope urging people to spend the enclosed money, has demanded anonymity, police said. They ruled out speculation that a religious group or a mentally unstable person was behind the gifts. Residents found the envelopes in their post on Saturday. Many at first thought they were the victims of a joke but later they called the police when they realised that others had also received a 100 kroner bill. — *AP, Copenhagen.*

#### Bad year for the rats

**BEIJING**, which launched a fly-swating drive in a failed bid to host the 2000 Olympics, has turned its wrath on rodents, declaring November 12 rat-killing day. Thousands of rodent warriors will fan out across the city, setting traps and laying poison. Warehouses, market places and construction sites will be the key targets. Earlier this year, residents of the north-eastern city of Shenyang eliminated 400,000 rats in a similar campaign. Under the Chinese lunar calendar, 1996 is the year of the rat. — *Reuters, Beijing.*

## One-horse race to rule Hong Kong

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

**T**HE selection of Hong Kong's first post-colonial governor — an exercise mocked by democrats as a charade choreographed by China — entered its final phase yesterday with more than 30 people declaring their ambition to replace Chris Patten next July. But, as applications closed, the appearance of an open contest masked the reality of what many believe to be a one-horse race by a Shanghai-

born shipping magnate, Tung Chee-hwa. A Beijing-appointed committee overseeing the process declined yesterday to name his rivals. The chief challenger seems to be Sir Ti-ling Yang, a fellow Shanghai-born who resigned last month as Hong Kong's chief justice. He won favour with China by supporting a plan to neuter the territory's bill of rights after 1997. Sir Ti-ling yesterday endorsed China's intention to dismantle an elected legislature and form an unelected "provisional" body, calling it "legal and necessary".

"You cannot expect the chief executive to be in a position to say no to Beijing. They would never select such a person," said Martin Lee, leader of the colony's most popular political group, the Democratic Party. "Whoever gets the job will be led by the nose like a horse." The winner will be announced in December by a 400-member selection committee, a body whose composition has yet to be announced. The Democratic Party is boycotting it. The razzamatazz and rhetoric of an open election, which has included press conferences by normally secretive tycoons and pledges by Mr Tung and other fabulously wealthy magnates to visit Hong Kong slums, belie a tightly-controlled decision-making process. But the exercise has revealed bitter competition between rival Hong Kong business dynasties, which have benefited from ties to the British colonial administration and want to ensure they enjoy the favour of the post-1997 regime. The link between politics and business was made clear

last week by Mr Tung who acknowledged that China had helped bail out his family's shipping empire in the 1980s. Other candidates are Peter Woo, a Shanghai-born millionaire and son-in-law of the late Sir Y.K. Fao, another shipping magnate and business rival of Mr Tung's family, and Simon Li, a former judge and member of another Hong Kong family dynasty. Seto Wah, branded a "subversive" by Beijing, has launched a mock campaign for the post of chief executive to publicise demands that Mr Patten's successor be elected by popular vote. The 28 British governors who have ruled Hong Kong since 1843 were chosen in London without democratic consultation. "Anyone who is not acceptable to Beijing does not have a chance of even becoming even a candidate," said Joseph Cheng, a political scientist at Hong Kong's City University. "The crucial issue is not the choice of a chief executive but political developments in Beijing. What happens in Beijing is far more important than the identity of the chief executive."

## Protests grow against Bhutto

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad

**T**HREE leaders of the religious opposition party Jamaat-i-Islami were picked up in a police sweep yesterday as the Pakistani authorities tried to stop protests against Benazir Bhutto's government. Nearly 4,000 followers of the Islamist party prayed in front of parliament in a dramatic show of power, and, for the second day running, riot police fought with them in the capital and the adjoining city of Rawalpindi. Their leader, Hussein Ahmed, was detained for several hours before being released. The extraordinary prayer meeting lasted about half an hour before police doused the protesters with hundreds of rounds of tear gas. Mass rallies are banned in Islamabad, and yesterday's events showed the ability of Jamaat, which has just three seats in parliament, to get its supporters, mainly students,

on to the streets. They also paralysed much of Islamabad as police chased demonstrators down city streets. The show of strength could also serve to mobilise the main opposition parties against Ms Bhutto, who is coming under increasingly fierce attack for alleged corruption and financial mismanagement. Hussein Ahmed is not alone in wanting her government out. In yesterday's police sweep, he and his deputy, Khurshid Ahmed, were picked up, along with the party's number three, Ghafoor Ahmed. All three have now been released. The government, meanwhile, announced that Ms Bhutto had given up the finance portfolio. Her privatisation minister, Syed Naveed Qamar, is to get the post. The International Monetary Fund is delaying disbursement of a \$400 million standby loan because of Pakistan's repeated failures to meet agreed targets.

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can separate  
Paris talks  
denies helping  
up costs job  
quiet on shooting  
delight Dan  
for the rats

# Malta deals blow to EU integration

John Hooper  
Southern Europe  
Correspondent

**ALFRED SANT** was sworn in yesterday as Malta's first Labour prime minister for nine years after an historic vote in which most electors opted to scrap their country's application for membership of the European Union.

The result was the latest in a string of recent setbacks to the cause of European integration. The last few weeks have seen protests in several member states against the sacrifices being demanded for economic and monetary union.

Malta's outgoing prime minister, Edward Fenech Adami, who submitted his country's application to join the EU six years ago, had expected to begin membership negotiations next year.

His opponent campaigned successfully on a pledge to abolish Value Added Tax and

reinstated annual economic growth to a rate of more than 6 per cent last year.

But his right-of-centre administration alienated many less prosperous islanders by imposing 15 per cent VAT in preparation for EU membership even before talks began.

The new distribution of seats in the island's 65-seat parliament was not immediately clear. But Labour was assured of a majority.

"We are for all of Malta, not just Labour," Mr Sant said from the balcony of the presidential palace where he was sworn in by the head of state, Ugo Mifsud Bonnici. But, in a move which will not endear him to the Roman Catholic Church, he broke with tradition by failing to kiss a cross to inaugurate his government.

Mr Sant is unlikely to sponsor a return to the aggressive anti-Westernism of his predecessor, Dom Mintoff. A distinctly Blairite, white-collar socialist, he has put Labour back in power partly by wooing middle-class voters. He insists he is as committed as Mr Fenech Adami to Malta's growing role as a financial services centre.

But there are bound to be misgivings in Washington and European capitals about his foreign policy. On the eve of polling, he said his first priority — even before scrapping VAT — would be to pull Malta out of the Nato-led Partnership for Peace.

Mr Sant said Malta would adhere to the UN sanctions imposed on Libya for the Lockerbie aircraft bombing, but made it clear he wanted improved relations with Colonel Gaddafi's regime. "We want a special relationship with Europe, but I argue that you start with your neighbours," he said.

Mr Sant, aged 48, has more than a touch of the Renaissance man about him. A physicist by training, he studied public administration in France before serving as a diplomat in Malta's mission to the European Communities from 1970 to 1975. He holds a doctorate from Harvard Business School, is fluent in English, French and Italian and is the author of novels, plays and stories in Maltese.

## He has put Labour back in power by wooing the middle class

reinstated customs duties — a move that would be anathema to Brussels. Mr Sant argued that the island's rapidly expanding but fragile and specialised economy could not bear the strains of full membership.

Labour took 50.7 per cent of the poll in Saturday's election. Mr Fenech Adami's Nationalists 47.8 per cent. The Times of Malta called it "the biggest upset for a quarter of a century".

Labour supporters launched into street celebrations on Sunday that continued yesterday. Fireworks rattled windows in Valletta and roads were clogged with cars dragging pots, pails and strings of beer cans.

Confident of success, Mr Fenech Adami had called elections eight months before time. He had cut unemployment, boosted tourist revenue

## Ministers limit visas and warn Burma of further sanctions

John Palmer  
in Luxembourg

THE European Union is ready to consider full economic and trade sanctions against Burma if the military dictatorship steps up repression of the democratic opposition. This emerged after EU foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg yesterday, imposed limits on contacts with Burmese officials in response to Rangoon's continuing failure to respect human rights.

The action was presented as part of an escalating campaign of pressure. "There is a very serious situation in Burma with a lack of respect for human rights and democracy," the Irish president of

the EU council of foreign ministers, Dick Spring, said in Luxembourg. "Today's decision reflects our concern."

Last month he met the Burmese foreign minister, Ohn Gya, at the United Nations in New York. The EU saw no sign that the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) was softening its stance against the National League for Democracy and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

The sanctions will deny EU visas to members of the SLORC and their families, and to senior members of the military and security forces. Visits to Burma by ministers or senior officials from the EU and its members are to be suspended. The EU has already imposed an arms embargo.



Germany's Chancellor Kohl and Indonesia's President Suharto admire their catch during a fishing trip off the coast near Jakarta PHOTOGRAPH: A. TCHIR

# Kohl offer turned down

John Aglionby in Jakarta

THE 1996 Nobel peace laureate, the Roman Catholic bishop of East Timor, Carlos Belo, declined an invitation to a meeting yesterday with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

Mr Kohl said during a two-day visit to Indonesia that Bishop Belo said he "had too busy an agenda in East Timor", although the invitation was issued some time ago. Mr Kohl, under pressure to raise human rights issues on the trip, said he had discussed East Timor "intensively" during talks with President Suharto yesterday. "In our opinion, it is very important that the issue of East Timor be settled together with the people of East Timor in a peaceful, just and acceptable manner," Mr Kohl said.

The European Union does not recognise Indonesian rule over East Timor. Jakarta invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it the following year.

Bishop Belo shares the 1996 peace prize with the East Timorese independence leader José Ramos Horta, who said yesterday that he would donate his share of the \$725,000 prize to establishing a Lisbon-based foundation to further the independence cause.

# United Europe fights US curbs

Stephen Bates  
and John Palmer  
in Luxembourg

EUROPEAN UNION foreign ministers last night overcame Danish objections to reach agreement on a challenge to United States legislation which would penalise EU companies trading with Cuba, Libya or Iran.

Lawyers found a way to proceed with united legislation from all 15 member states, threatening retaliation if the US goes ahead with the sanctions in American courts under its Helms/Burton act.

Under the regulations, any European company will be instructed to ignore the Helms/Burton legislation if its interests are threatened and, if it is successfully sued in the American courts, will be entitled to claim any financial penalties back through a counter-claim in a European court.

The counter-sanctions were being described last night as intended to concentrate minds in the US government once the presidential election is over next week, and to head off the threat of court battles on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Danish government had threatened last week to pull out of the joint approach because of fears that the regulations would infringe Danish constitutional sovereignty. The lawyers' footwork found a way round that through a sub-clause in an obscure European convention passed unanimously in 1968 which

gives the EU power to act in civil and commercial matters affecting member states.

The British government, which frequently finds itself in a minority on sensitive issues touching on the power balance between national states and the European Union, is leading the fight for a tough EU stand against Washington. "A failure to pass the measures would send completely the wrong signal to Washington," the foreign office minister David Davis told journalists. "We believe use of the Helms/Burton act to discourage trade with Cuba is completely unjustifiable, as are the parallel measures to discourage energy investment in Libya and Iran."

The EU agreement will not affect a case brought by the European Commission against the United States at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva.

A WTO panel is due to convene on November 20 to rule on EU complaints that the Helms/Burton act is extrajurisdictional. The EU is still studying proposals to bar American executives involved in litigation from entering the 15-nation bloc and has already begun compiling a "watchlist" of potential litigants.

The US has already barred executives and directors of companies based in Canada, Mexico and Italy — including the former deputy governor of the Bank of England, Rupert Pennant-Rea — from entering the US.

# Venezuela halts inquiry into mass grave and leaves evidence to rot

The government is ducking allegations surrounding a mass grave, Jane Knight in Caracas reports

A FETID odour hangs in the air near five cement buildings. A heap of broken coffins balances precariously on a nearby hillside — a fitting backdrop for the buildings, which house dozens of unidentified corpses.

The bodies have been left to rot since they were sealed into individual chambers six years ago. Only scratch marks on the cement differentiate the contents.

The corpses, which were dug up from a mass grave on the edge of the main cemetery in the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, form part of a case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Local human rights groups say the 68 bodies exhumed were dumped clandestinely to hide the extent of the carnage after security forces killed hundreds of people in bloody street riots that broke out on February 27, 1989, in response to petrol price rises.

"We have been waiting for seven years. The state's answer has been absolute silence," said Lilliana Ortega, executive director of

Cofavic, an organisation representing families of the riot victims which has taken the case to the Washington-based human rights body.

Cemetery workers are unwilling to comment on the possibility that police dump their victims in the consecrated ground. But they readily refer to the mass grave site by its morbid nickname — the Plague.

Rumours of the Plague were sparked off by reports of vans laden with bodies, and photographs showing a large hole being dug in the cemetery after the riots. Sniffer dogs working with scientists helped excavate the site a year-and-a-half later.

The bodies were heaped on top of each other. Judge Saúl Ron Braschi, who ordered the excavation, says many had "faces of pain" and bullet wounds. Most did not have the morgue's identification bracelets and were not registered in the cemetery's records.

After three corpses were identified as riot victims, the investigation was mysteriously stalled early in 1991. The rest were sealed off and left to deteriorate, along with the evidence.

Judge Braschi was moved to a new position outside Caracas in April 1991. "The whole process has been stopped," he said. "There seems to be some resistance to continuing the investigation." Aura Liscano, aged 33, still scans the faces of pas-



Cofavic says Mavares was shot in the legs days after the riots by a soldier who stopped him when he was walking near the presidential palace. After checking his identification, they ordered him to run. But he could not get up from the ground, so police pumped 22 bullets into his body.

"They killed me even as if he was a dog," said Nancy Mavares.

The case is the exception — government officials sweep allegations about the Plague under the carpet. The state prosecutor, Iván Darío Bevilacqua, claims that only 27 bodies were unearthed, and that attempts to identify them failed in most cases. "We presume they were illegal immigrants," he said.

On this year's anniversary of the riots, the then defence minister, Italo del Valle Allegro, told journalists that reports that the grave contained riot victims were a "huge lie". He suggested the bodies were earthquake victims.

In March, the mayor of Caracas, Antonio Ledezma, led officials to a site near the Plague, where bodies, hospital gowns and empty firearm shells were scattered among bushes.

Some had died only months before, according to cemetery officials. None was registered, pointing to the possibility of further illegal killings. "Now a new plague has emerged," Mr Ledezma said.

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K. Hoggarth, Postgraduate Office,  
The University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX  
Tel: 01482 465568. Fax: 01482 465936.  
K.R.Hoggarth@admin.hull.ac.uk <http://www.hull.ac.uk/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL

### News in brief

#### Burundi army admits killings

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army yesterday admitted killing some 50 ethnic Hutu civilians in the southern province of Bururi and said the soldiers responsible would be punished.

"On October 13 some indoctrinated military killed civilians whom they accused of feeding the assassins [rebels] but there was no proof that they were feeding the rebels," an army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Isale Nibizi said. — Reuters.

#### Anthrax victims

At least nine people were infected with anthrax after eating contaminated beef in Troitskoye, Lipetsk, central Russia, and one of them died, Russian health officials said yesterday. — AP.

#### Reactor to close

Ukraine said yesterday that it would shut down one of two reactors still operating at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on November 30, taking a big step towards full closure in line with promises to the West. — Reuters.

#### Ebola death toll

Three more people have died of the Ebola virus in Gabon, raising the death toll to 14, health officials said yesterday. — AP.

#### Carlos complains

The jailed guerrilla "Carlos the Jackal" has demanded that Carlos, The Secret Networks of International Terrorism, a book about him published this week, be banned on the grounds that it violated his right to be presumed innocent, justice sources said in Paris yesterday. — Reuters.

#### Aids drug trial

Up to 2,000 Romanian children suffering from Aids are to undergo a three-year clinical drug trial, following an agreement signed yesterday by Romania and a Texas hospital. — AP.

#### Border accord

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have signed a contract with a French company to demarcate their disputed border, signalling a move to end nearly four years of strained relations. — AP.

#### Journalists' strike

French journalists' unions have called a strike for November 14 over government plans to scrap a 30 per cent income tax reduction that has been compensation for professional expenses. — Reuters.

#### Marcos gems sale

A Philippines court yesterday authorised the auction of the bulk of a \$7.7 million jewellery collection of the former first lady Imelda Marcos, after rejecting a request by the Marcos family to stop the sale. — Reuters.

#### Foes reburied

The remains of about 100 soldiers from Cuba's second world war fascist army were reburied in a low-key ceremony near Amis on the Adriatic coast alongside anti-Nazi fighters, despite Jewish outrage. — Reuters.

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**America and the world**  
An election non-issue which won't go away

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS** — to no one's surprise — are only peripheral to the US presidential contest as it gears up for the final week. No one is promising, or demanding, speedy action on Zaire or Afghanistan. Bill Clinton can proclaim without challenge his grand vision of the US building a bridge to the 21st century and the rest of the world. He has the advantage of incumbency, congratulating himself on carrying American values around the globe. With the collapse of communism, Bob Dole has lost a familiar target. If the president is "soft on China", then that suits Republican business too. Mr Dole is also constrained by the tradition of bipartisanship. He found no easy opening in Mr Clinton's Detroit speech on the expansion of the Atlantic Alliance: only this summer the Republican-controlled houses of congress passed by huge majorities the Nato enlargement act. When Mr Dole has accused Mr Clinton of weakness on specific issues — as in the case of Kurdistan — he risks ending up by having to endorse, grudgingly, presidential action. It does not really help Mr Dole that a number of foreign policy timebombs are ticking away — as in Bosnia, the Middle East or Russia. They have to blow up today, or within the next week. November 6 will be too late.

The US public is not, contrary to the usual myth, isolationist, but neither is it passionately concerned with world affairs. Though social and economic issues rank ahead of foreign issues on the agenda, most Americans generally continue to favour US involvement abroad. This is viewed as important in terms of American interests rather than in the interests of the world (though most Americans would claim that the two coincide). The polls show that measures defined under the heading of "global altruism" — promoting human rights abroad, aiding developing nations etc — are only rated as very

important by about 30 per cent of the public. Twice as many place a high value on the maintenance of US "global interests" such as countering terrorism, and even more in the case of domestic issues linked to foreign policy (eg combating drugs and reducing immigration). One of the reasons why Bosnia has produced such an equivocal response from US public opinion is that it cannot decide whether US intervention is helping others, or itself, or both. Similarly, the view often expressed outside the US that American interest and influence is waning, for better or for worse, is wide of the mark. Like the cock-up theory of history, the thesis of diminishing US involvement can become an excuse for lack of serious analysis. Mr Clinton in his Nato speech described the US as "the indispensable nation" — a phrase he now uses frequently. It is true that he also subscribes to the view that new technologies will break down "the blocs and barriers that defined the world for previous generations." Yet this is not so different from the century-old US quest for an Open Door world — open particularly to US trade and influence.

Critics of US intervention abroad often talk as if it can simply fade away, while those in favour fear that it will. That is not going to happen: the world's one surviving superpower is not about to efface itself. It retains a preponderant influence in those same "global" institutions which are supposed to supplant it, such as the IMF and the World Trade Organisation. When it decides to let the real global body which it should be supporting most vigorously — the United Nations — wither on the vine, it is hardly challenged. Mr Clinton in Detroit assigned all credit for peace in Bosnia to the US-led NATO, and did not even mention the UN. The question is not whether the US has an international role: it is what sort of role.

**Murdoch: the digital dictator**

Politicians have refused to curb him. Now it is almost too late

WHEN will the Conservatives or the Labour party be able to beg or borrow the guts to stand up to Rupert Murdoch? The great promise of the digital revolution — as set out by Al Gore, deputy President of the US — was that its products should be universally available and affordable. Yet by astutely buying up the main world sporting events and films Mr Murdoch is ensuring that key national events — often in stadiums funded by public money — are seen by fewer people (until, as he hopes, everyone is forced to take out a BSkyB subscription to see anything worthwhile at all). Now — as Henry Porter explains in G2 today — he is poised not just to own the sporting rights themselves but the electronic turnstiles through which we must all pass if we want to participate in the new revolution of digital television.

He is about to place contracts for the first of what is likely to become millions of set-top boxes to decode the 18 and 65 of digital signals into high quality versatile pictures on our screens. In theory the BBC and ITV could push ahead and manufacture their own rival box. But they are so expensive (£200 to £400 depending how much Mr Murdoch decides to subsidise them) that few people will want to buy two boxes and by the time the others have got their act together the Rupert-box will already have established itself as the standard. Mr Murdoch could argue that he has had the foresight and the courage to spend large sums of money while the

others have been pusillanimous. That's true but not the point. Quite apart from the fact that it isn't a level playing field (Mr Murdoch's companies pay virtually no tax and have escaped the programming costs that ITV companies have to bear), the key to digital television's hundreds, maybe thousands of new channels is too important to be left in one pocket. Especially if it is the pocket of Mr Murdoch, whose overwhelming loyalty is to the profitability of his own company even if that means — outrageously — kicking the BBC off his Star satellite in the Far East to appease China, or booting out an editor (Andrew Neil) because he jeopardised his Malaysian ambitions or raising his charges hugely to cable companies in order, presumably, to squeeze them out of competitive existence.

The gateway to digital television is so crucial it should be enshrined in law as a common carrier owned and operated by users without prejudice. In theory there are already restrictions on Mr Murdoch's potential to exploit his monopoly but everyone knows that in practice he will run rings round the regulators and will use the awesome power of his newspapers and media interests around the world to undermine any political party that dares to challenge his divine right to become the digital dictator of the information age. Labour will rue the day it gives way to him for short-term political advantage. Have no doubt, Citizen Murdoch will call in any favours.

**The secret that always is**

Britain's hidden strength may be brains not brawn

A MINOR mystery of the second world war has been solved: the identity of the so-called "man who never was". Now we know that it was the body of a depressive suicidal tramp called Glyndwr Michael that was deliberately washed ashore in Spain in 1943, carrying the forged papers which successfully hoaxed the Germans into believing that the allied invasion of southern Europe would start in Sardinia rather than Sicily.

It has taken Roger Morgan more than thirty years of research to come up with Mr Michael's heroic but long forgotten name. To some, such an obsessive quest will seem almost absurd, or as another example of our inability to put the second world war behind us. Yet he has actually done us all a favour.

The British obsession with the war provides us with a national myth of bravery which sustains our football hooligans and our armed forces alike.

But the conclusion to which the brilliant 1943 hoax points is rather different. Like the 1980s revelations about the Enigma code-breaking operations at Bletchley Park, it suggests that we have misled ourselves about the nature of the national genius. For it looks as though we owed victory in our Finest Hour less to bravery than to brains.

If that is true, then there is a lesson for our times. The battle of Waterloo may or may not have been won on the playing-fields of Eton but the defeat of Hitler seems increasingly to have been won in the maths and science faculties of our universities. Without wishing to substitute one national stereotype for another, the inference is that victory goes not to the strongest but to the brightest. If the investment in British brains could defeat fascism then, who knows what else a fresh investment in the national grey cells might achieve now?



**Letters to the Editor**

**Tory morals fail the school test**

LET me reveal my state of damnation at once: I am not married (Better red than dead, October 26). I have two happy, academically and socially successful daughters; a partner of 21 years' standing who is employed in a responsible position with a multinational company, a first-class degree in philosophy and classical studies, a cat, a house and a mortgage. Yet for the lack of a piece of legally worded paper, I am to be denounced as morally unsound.

We took the long route to get where we are. My partner and I were both academic failures at school, largely because we were both so alienated from the rest of the "normal" children. My parents were separated and my father is black; my partner's parents were divorced. We both suffered from the cruelty inflicted by uncomprehending children who had been taught that one way of living was "right". My partner gained his extensive professional qualifications through years of day release. I gained mine as a mature student.

But my daughters have been more fortunate. Their peers, steeped in familial diversity, have not found

cause to taunt them. I can hardly believe that responsible, worldly adults might be in all seriousness proposing to return to a situation where a child is demoralised and alienated from her contemporaries because her familial situation differs from the state-prescribed norm.

Kim Shahabuddin,  
Norcot Road,  
Tilehurst,  
Reading RG30.

Working in the Middle and Far East, where parents and wider society take much of the responsibility for encouraging a culture of good behaviour, has given many clues as to why standards in British society are in decline.

Rob Freeth,  
Headteacher, Doha  
English-Speaking School,  
P O Box 7660,  
Doha, Qatar.

IT WAS profoundly moving to hear Gillian Shepherd call for a greater emphasis on the value of the family (Marriage key to Tory morals, October 26). Undoubtedly what she has in mind is asking one of her backbench colleagues in the Tory Party to assist us weaker brethren in seeing the importance of moral living.

She is not short of choice: Tim Yeo will do as he knows only too well the benefits of multiple family life, or perhaps David Mellor (if she can afford his fees), and Stephen Norris could take time out from his range of mistresses. For a more patrician view there is always Alan Clarke, or indeed Lord Parkinson.

Hypocrisy? Just a touch. Lawrence Waterman,  
Park Road,  
London W3.

CHILDREN learn moral values in their homes, from school and by osmosis from those prevalent in society and implicit in the behaviour of the leaders of the country.

What moral rectitude will children learn from the Government's appointment of Sir Archibald Hamilton as a judge of Neil Hamilton's conduct?

As the Guardian reveals (Sir Archie's question of judgment, October 26), his financial transactions are not illegal, but ethically highly dubious, depending on how you view his practice of using his parliamentary privileges to secure large consultancy fees.

That Mrs Shepherd should consider that she, as a member of this disreputable Government is equipped to dictate to the Schools Curriculum Authority on moral teaching in schools, defies belief.

She's either wildly out of touch with public opinion and unbelievably arrogant, or else she's pulling our legs.

Eileen Noakes,  
Ridgeway,  
2 Lower Warren Road,  
Kingsbridge,  
Devon TQ7 1LF.

**Howard's hard cell spurred**

DURING the six months I spent in prison earlier this year, I met very few of the "dangerous and violent" offenders whom Michael Howard would have us believe are packing the jails (Jailhouse Britain, October 26). Instead I met many under-educated women, most with young children, who were in jail for petty crime, probation violations and non-payment of fines.

For much of the time I spent in prison, staff shortages meant that education, association and even exercise — a statutory right — were cancelled on a daily basis. We were not infrequently locked up in our single cells for up to 24 hours a day. Why does Michael Howard think that treating people like animals, and locking them up for ever-longer periods, will reduce the propensity to reoffend?

Andrea Needham,  
Oak Towers,  
Roughwood Drive,  
Kirby,  
Merseyside L33.

WELL done, Mr Howard! At one stroke to sweep the wicked under the carpet and to solve the problem of rural unemployment. A new prison is a godsend to any run-down small town. It guarantees lots of secure jobs and provides a bonanza for the local traders. Mind you any old-fashioned ideas like rehabilitation and resettlement of offenders have to go out of the window. The thing is to keep the fodder flowing into the machine.

I M Parker,  
The Cottage,  
Westlton,  
Saxmundham,  
Suffolk IP17 8AD.

**Cheap shot**

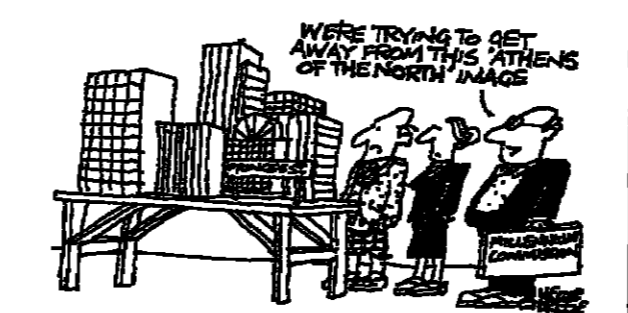
THE call by Dr Oscar Arias to control arms exports to the developing world is well justified (A plague of arms, October 21). However, earlier this year, Israel pulled off a rather deal with Costa Rica, in which his country paid more than \$3,000,000 for a consignment of secondhand Israeli weapons (famously, Colt is said to be providing the infrastructure, not for buying guns).

(Dr) T J Gray,  
6 Marten Road,  
Folkestone,  
Kent CT20 2RJ.

**Glass houses**

SO A public consultation exercise is planned for the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich (Millennium plans enter crucial stage, October 26)? I hope this exercise will be more meaningful than here in Edinburgh, where the Commission itself appears complicit in steam-rollering opposition.

Edinburgh City Council wants Millennium money for a £20million project to turn the historic and unspoiled city centre, Calton Hill, into a commercial theme park, mirroring Greenwich's time motif, and including the world's largest all-glass building. Residents and tourists alike overwhelmingly opposed the proposals. A poll conducted by the local paper at the Council's request reported 92 per cent against. Yet the councillors behind this intend to



claim support from their own "consultation exercise" — a case-study in low-information and high-marketing speak held in an obscure location at an exhibition of innovative architecture. Heavily loaded questionnaires there will provide the material to claim "public consent". Repeated pleas for open public meetings and impartial opinion polling are refused.

The Millennium Commission, however, is the shadowy presence. It is unaccountable, but has an obvious interest in high-profile schemes going through. It is meant to take no part in developing plans. She is not short of choice: Tim Yeo will do as he knows only too well the benefits of multiple family life, or perhaps David Mellor (if she can afford his fees), and Stephen Norris could take time out from his range of mistresses. For a more patrician view there is always Alan Clarke, or indeed Lord Parkinson.

Hypocrisy? Just a touch. Lawrence Waterman,  
Park Road,  
London W3.

**On sponsors**

ADAM Sweeting's perfectly fair review of The South Bank Show's The Making of Michael Collins (Double-entry terrorism, October 26) rather obliquely but clearly raises the problem of our relationship with our new sponsors, The Sunday Telegraph. "So you had to wonder how the South Bank film fitted between the tectonic plates of corporate media interests, their political allegiances and circulation wars."

Sponsorship is widespread and necessary in the arts today. The Sunday Telegraph has absolutely no editorial input into the South Bank Show. We have also made a policy of ensuring our editorial independence from the subjects we take on and the questions asked, of Neil Jordan or anyone else. Together with the rest of our documentaries, the film on Collins was a result of what we as a team wanted to say.

Melvyn Bragg,  
Controller of Arts, LWT,  
London Television Centre,  
London SE1 9LT.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

**Post-mortem**

FOLLOWING the outcry over my theory on the causes on the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Doctor's cot death line dismissed, October 26) I would be grateful for a chance to defend myself. The research was conducted over four years and culminated in a work of 15,000 words and some 350 references based mainly on studies for the USA, Australia and New Zealand. The paper I selected to quote which states that "risk has been found not to be elevated when the father smokes but not the mother" is well researched and has not been refuted.

My work does not state that all cot deaths are due to poor parental care — to have quoted me otherwise is both dangerous and inflammatory. I have, however, explained not only the age incidence, but also how astology is related to each of the 11 risk factors. All of these cause sleep deprivation, except the prone sleeping position, with resultant intense (not "deep") and thus restless sleep. Only a modest percentage of risk factors are associated with lapses in good care, and the latter are linked with a disrupting environment which prevents a mother from being preoccupied for that short vital time with her baby.

(Dr) J Michael Simpson,  
Apt 128 Codex,  
8400 Lagoa,  
Algarve, Portugal.

**Harding, the soft touch**

WONDER if I might add a short reminiscence of Matthew Harding (Letters, October 26), whose prompt reaction to a call for help from a female he didn't know and never met saved her from being thrown out on the street? As a sitting tenant of a property belonging to a company which was part of the Chelsea Football Club, I had asked to be allowed to stay on in one of their empty flats for a maximum two-month period after the agreed termination of my tenancy, until I could move into alternative accommodation.

A request to the company had been met with instant rejection, and in desperation, remembering an article about Matthew Harding in the Guardian over a year earlier which described him as affable and a socialist, I left a letter at his City office at 9.30am on June 24 this year, asking for his help. Literally 24 hours later, I was informed I could stay on, after what I later heard was a rather stormy board meeting the previous morning. Harding must have virtually followed me back from the City to Stamford Bridge to attend it. Susan Haslings,  
12B Wilmington Square,  
London WC1X 0BS.

A T time when self-seeking politicians are jumping on the "morality" bandwagon, Matthew Harding's philosophy epitomised the social responsibility that should go with the rewards of a successful business career. His attitude was "I've done well out of business, and now I want to put something back" and his recent donation to the Labour Party showed he meant what he said. I don't suppose that there are many millionaires who proudly hang their (enormous) tax bill on the wall of their City office.

The extraordinary outpouring of grief showed just how much his unaffected manner was appreciated by everyone who shared his passion for our national game.

Ross Fraser,  
Chairman, Chelsea Independent Supporters' Association,  
65 Waltham Road,  
London W2.

**A Country Diary**

CHESHIRE: Wild flowers were becoming hard to find by the last week in October but I reached the grand total of 24 during a long walk through the valley on a warm and sunny autumn day. The Himalayan balsam on the river bank looked very ragged after the recent rains. However, there were still plenty of bright pink and white flowers in evidence and these, together with several patches of red campion and a few tall plants of hogweed, were the most obvious amongst those on the list. Less conspicuous was the herb Robert hidden away in a sheltered spot beneath a Hawthorn hedge and the tiny, white, star-shaped flowers of stems scrambling through the tall damp grass in a marshy depression close to the river.

On a small grassy embankment by the road that crosses the southern edge of the valley some black knapweed, devil-bit scabious and self-heal were still in flower and

the purple, blue and violet heads had attracted the attention of two small tortoiseshell butterflies in their quest for nectar. Not included in the total was the dog violet which was only in bud, and these buds would never open. The plant's dark green leaves had persisted long after its blue flowers, produced in spring, had faded away and, like the wood sorrel, it had resorted to self-pollination as a safeguard against the lack of insects in the often cold, and bright green shut buds would germinate inside these closed cases, producing abundant seed. Eventually, with my search for flowers exhausted, I turned my attention to the fungi which proved to be more visible and numerous. On one large trunk of a fallen beech I counted five species of small fungi, including a row of club-shaped fruit bodies of the candle snuff fungus with antler-like whitish tips and black stalks.

J M THOMPSON



Handwritten note: "John Taylor 20/10/96"

Diary

Matthew Norman

UNIQUELY touching document has come into the Diary's possession. It is a British Airways competition form, filled out neatly in black ink...

GMTV: an apology. On Friday, it was erroneously stated that the breakfast station GMTV pulled out of an interview with John Major...

In sensational news from Oxfordshire, Banbury Conservative Club is contemplating changing its name after 102 years.

STEPHEN Neville writes from Warley in the west Midlands to report receiving a free gift from a computer magazine.

ON the machine is a message from Uri Geller. "If you don't call me back," it says, "I will bend your phone."

ONE of those annual lists of Hollywood's 100 most powerful people has just been published. Now magazine reports, it goes who makes a new entry at number 100? Yes, it's Lourdes Ciccone. Not bad going, is it, for someone aged a fortnight?

THIS IS A TIPING FOR CUTTING LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW. A cartoon illustration showing a man with a large knife cutting through a hole in a wall.

Howard, the Home Alone Secretary

Commentary Hugo Young

THE final session of this Parliament belongs to Michael Howard. There could be no more fitting gargoyle on its tombstone.

Uniquely among ministers, the Home Secretary is lord of his terrain. He has political licence no other minister can match.

His bills are the last attempt to clean up what has gone wrong, the detritus of 17 years. Paedophiles, stalkers, a plethora of guns and knives...

Disregard for their adherence to objectivity continues rampant. Take mandatory sentencing, the cornerstone of Mr Howard's valedictory bill.

He ignores colleagues, despises officials, teaches a civics lesson to judges

Lord Chief Justice, described Howard's latest exercise in judicial language, observing that "never in the history of our criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such dubious and flimsy evidence."

Lord Donaldson said that under their judges would "be required to be unjust". Even when judges freely enter public debate, not one of them has supported what the Home Secretary proposes.

But the chief instructor of the ignorant is the Home Secretary himself. He is the authority who tells the people there is no other way, then cites them as his own authority.

agreement is indispensable. Any policy with international aspects brings in the Foreign Office. The need for cross-departmental consensus restrains even the most assertive Defence Secretary.

Colleagues, however, are only the first of the excluded. Next come the officials who, unlike ministers, actually want to be of service to the great man. Expertise and experience is what they are paid to deliver.

Next come the officials who, unlike ministers, actually want to be of service to the great man. Expertise and experience is what they are paid to deliver. But Mr Howard soon showed his disdain for what they had to offer.

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ened, have left matters of crime and liberty to Mr Howard. Even the serious budgetary consequences of a policy that will involve building 20 more prisons has not excited their concern.

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the crudity of a political instruction for the case-by-case justice judges presently administer. In these fields from burglary to rape, the bill does not merely guarantee some atrocious sentences but stands a fair chance of defeating its own purposes.

These are trivial inconveniences, swept aside by the Home Secretary. He is his own best expert at manipulating select statistics to produce the right result.

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So we know who he does not listen to. He ignores his colleagues, despises his officials, teaches a civics lesson to the judges. He is almost but not quite alone.

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Books beyond the Booker's city limits



D J Taylor

LAST month, the Cumbrian writer John Murray published his fourth novel, Reiver Blues: A Border Apocalypse (Flammarion, £8.99).

However, I can guarantee that not one in 20 of the readers of this article, or the punters bidden to attend the Booker Prize dinner at the Guildhall, will ever have heard of book or author.

Critics often complain about the cliquishness and back-scratching of the average books pages. Rarely, though, does anyone draw attention to their incorrigible metropolitan bias.

Some, like Panurge Publishing in Cumbria or Sunk Island in Lincolnshire, have grown out of successful literary magazines. Others, like Flammarion, based in Newcastle, or slightly older firms such as Carcanet (Manchester) and Polygon (Edinburgh) go in for kinds of writing that the big firms tend to ignore.

The history of Rampant Horse Books is an example of this. Based in Norwich and specialising in new novels by

writers one had actually heard of (Susan Curran and Jeremy Leland, for instance) Rampant Horse soon ran up against a single, immovable obstacle: no one would review their books.

But the Rampant Horse experience is pervasive. Among half-a-dozen unjustly neglected regional writers one might single out Julia Darling, whose short story collection, Bloodlines, again published by an obscure firm in the north-west, was good enough to be read on Woman's Hour and win a substantial literary award.

A little research in the newspaper libraries confirms this bias. I selected two Sunday newspapers, the Times and the Guardian, and two dailies, the Guardian and Independent, with a reputation for good books coverage.

In fact, the reason why most people will never have heard of John Murray is that his books are brought out by a small press in the north of England and therefore no one ever reviews him.

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When knives are out

More murderers use what statistics call 'sharpened instruments' than they do handguns or shotguns. Duncan Campbell believes we must ban combat knives

THE simplest route from the Guardian offices to the Old Bailey is through Smithfield meat market. It seems somehow appropriate to have to step over pools of blood on the way to court.

Just south of the market, as you approach the building where Leandro Chindamo was jailed for life for stabbing head teacher Philip Lawrence to death last week, is a butcher's equipment shop.

are looking for a weapon to inflict lethal damage you can find it in any butcher's equipment store, chemist's shop or ironmonger. Razors are viewed nostalgically in some quarters as liberal weapons because the wounds they inflicted were more damaging to a man's vanity than his life.

So after the — partially — successful crusade against handguns comes another against combat knives. There are a number of key differences in the debates. For a start, there is no significant

run? All the three police staff associations are in talks to see whether there is a definition of a combat knife that would differentiate it from a carver or a Boy Scout's knife. The Police Superintendents' Association has been most vocal on the subject. Brian Mackenzie, its president, says: "The type of weapons we are talking about has no purpose apart from causing grievous bodily harm."

There was no lasting campaign to ban combat knives. It was tacitly accepted that, since you could buy a lethal knife in any supermarket, there was little point in trying to prescribe other knives just because they looked ferocious or were advertised in shops frequented by Andy McNab wannabes.

young people smoking cannabis (and, as far as we know, no one has yet been stabbed to death with a joint) he has nonetheless introduced law after law to prevent cannabis consumption. He has often said that just because a law is flouted, it does not mean that we should do nothing.

Which makes the position that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, adopted last week intriguing. He had said that as much as was feasible had been done already to limit the use of such weapons; implicit in this was an idea that there was little point in introducing fresh legislation when there were so many knives available that they were beyond limitation. Now, on an average Friday night, many more young men will pick up a canna-bite in their right hand than will pick up a Bowie knife or switchblade. But although Michael Howard would accept that his laws have had little effect on the number of

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Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie

# Architect of Polaris

**A**S THIS administrative architect of the recently-disbanded Polaris ballistic missile submarine force, Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie, who has died aged 63, has a strong claim to the title of the most important submariner in British history.

After outstanding wartime service, Mackenzie rose to rear-admiral and became flag officer, submarines, at the turn of 1951. It was a testing time for submariners as they prepared to deploy HMS Dreadnought, Britain's first nuclear hunter-killer boat.

Technical backwardness and/or lack of funds obliged the Royal Navy to depend on American nuclear know-how. This reliance broadened enormously after Prime Minister Macmillan persuaded President Kennedy at the end of 1962 to let Britain buy Polaris strategic nuclear missiles, complete with the related submarine and electronic technologies. It seemed only natural to appoint Mackenzie chief Polaris executive on Boxing Day that year.

The task was a uniquely complex one for the Royal Navy. The A3 version of Polaris had to be fitted with a British warhead and deployed in British-built nuclear submarines with an American-designed midships section to hold the missiles.

Mackenzie's tutelage, the first Polaris boat — HMS Resolution — was launched in 1966 and set off on her first armed patrol in June 1968.

The Royal Navy thus took over the British "independent" deterrent from the Royal Air Force's V-bomber force, courtesy of the White House.



Complex manoeuvre... Sir Hugh plans the introduction of Polaris to the navy. Alongside him is a model of a missile

Mackenzie then retired as a vice-admiral with his knight-hood (KCB). He had seen the project through from conception to realisation remarkably quickly and within budget. He also saw the end of the story, unveiling a plaque at Faslane in August this year to mark the end of the Polaris force after 28 years.

Mackenzie was born in In-

verness, one of four children of a Highland doctor. He was only 13 when he won a prized place at Dartmouth Naval College as a cadet. Although he loved the navy, Mackenzie was less keen on life aboard battleships and volunteered for the submarine service. This was risky because the Admiralty was once again discounting submarines, de-

spite the near-victory of the German U-boats in 1917.

But the diminutive Mackenzie, nicknamed Rufus for his red hair, qualified in 1935 and got his first command, the submarine Thrasher, in the Mediterranean in 1941. The U-class boats were in the thick of the ferocious submarine campaigns in the Mediterranean; 13 were sunk,

nearly half the total deployed. Thrasher almost joined them when two unexploded bombs lodged inside her outer hull after an air-attack provoked by her sinking a freighter on the Axis supply-line. His first lieutenant and a petty officer each won the Victoria Cross for dislodging them.

Five months later, Thrasher was almost sunk by

bombardment from a British naval aircraft. Mackenzie managed to bring her into Port Said in a sinking condition. For his part in sinking 11 enemy vessels, including vital tankers and Mussolini's heavily-armed "yacht", laden with petrol meant for Rommel's tanks, Mackenzie was awarded a DSO in 1942 and a second in 1943.

He then transferred to a new submarine, the Tantalus, and a new theatre of combat, the Pacific. There he made the two longest patrols of the war by a British submarine. Based at Fremantle, Australia, he took his new boat into the narrow waters of the Java and South China seas, evading Japanese patrols, U-boats and mines. For his exploits in the Far East, he was awarded the DSC in 1945.

After the war, Mackenzie took charge of the notorious "perisher" course for would-be submarine skippers from 1946-48. As a captain, he commanded a flotilla of destroyers and two shore establishments before returning to his beloved submarines as chief staff officer to his flag officer, whose post he inherited in summer 1961.

In retirement, he chaired the Navy League for six years until 1974. A keen fisherman, he also sat on the board of the Atlantic Salmon Trust, which he left as chairman in 1983. A year earlier, calm as ever in a crisis, he rescued his wife from their blazing car after a collision, despite his own severe burns. She, their son and two daughters survive him.

Dan Van Der Vat  
Hugh Stirling Mackenzie, submarine officer, born July 3, 1913; died October 10, 1996

Mary Tuck

# A taste for justice

**M**ARY TUCK, who has died aged 68, was the former head of the Home Office Research and Planning Unit for 13 years. During that time — in the later part of a long and varied career — she influenced the direction of criminological thinking, played a major part in shaping public policy on crime, and inspired all those who worked with her.

Early intellectual curiosity led her to study for a further degree (following her open scholarship to St Anne's, Oxford, to study briefly in social psychology at the London School of Economics). There she was inspired by Martin Fishbein with whom she formed a lifelong friendship. Her book *How Do We Choose* drew upon Fishbein's work on attitudes, rationality and choice and is an early example of her ability to communicate complex intellectual ideas to a wider audience.

This skill was important when she joined the Home Office Research and Planning Unit (RPU) in 1976. The purpose of the RPU is to provide an impartial and objective empirical base for the development of policy, but as one of her predecessors wrote many years before: "to preserve scientific integrity while acting as a servant of the Secretary of State has never been easy".

Coming from a career in "communications", Tuck brought fresh insights in how research could be effectively conveyed in public debate and how findings, frequently unpalatable to ministers, could be used constructively, in policy formation.

She could make complex ideas or sophisticated statistical analysis intelligible. She loved literature and would often clarify a point by relating it to a scene, a plot or a character in a novel.

To portray her as merely a brilliant communicator would not do her justice. She developed the discipline of criminology in many important ways, most significantly by emphasising the importance of community in understanding crime and in shaping effective crime prevention strategies. At this time the findings of the new British Crime Survey were graphically illustrating how certain types of communities were disproportionately affected by crime. (It was also a time when Mrs Thatcher was stating that "there is no such thing as society".)

For Tuck the importance of community was real, not just theoretical. Away from the public eye she was very active in her local community in west London. For many years she served as a member of the West London Catholic Education Committee. She established the Mangrove Trust to raise money to save the West Indian community centre of the same name and supported the Notting Hill Carnival.

She was born into a Catholic family and brought up in what she described as "Cannon Street" neighbourhood in St Helens, Lancashire.

Robert O'Neill Crossman, politician, born March 7, 1947; died October 21, 1996



Tuck... care and concern

shire. After Oxford, she spent a year teaching at the University of Pittsburgh before working for two years at the Government Communication Headquarters.

She switched careers to become a journalist at Vogue, where she edited the Vogue Beauty Book. Journalism led to copywriting for various advertising agencies and to market research. During this period she married Robin and brought up her family of four children.

Although she would have had reservations about the label "feminist", she was greatly concerned about the position of women in society and wrote several articles on the topic. She was later to urge female slaves never to accept that it was not possible to have a family and get to the top. She also wrote her first book *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Good Taste*.

Tuck retired from the Home Office in 1989 but never retired from public life. She was an assessor to Lord Justice Woolf's enquiry into the prison disturbances of 1996. Her profound sense of fairness and personal integrity meant that she saw no contradiction in being a member of the Parole Board at the same time as being National Chair of Victim Support.

She continued to promote social research following her appointment to the council of the Economic and Social Research Council. Committed to raising awareness and the standard of debate of crime and criminal justice, she wrote and lectured on the subject and frequently appeared on radio and television. She recently joined the Council of the British Society of Criminology which she wanted to promote as an authoritative and impartial voice on such issues.

Through her energy, inspiration and charisma she enriched the lives of all who came into contact with her. She was open and frank, but above all had a wonderful sense of humour, with the ability to defuse a potentially difficult situation with a joke at her own expense.

She will be remembered by those who worked with her with genuine and deep affection at the personal level and enduring respect for her professionalism.

Roger Tarking  
Mary Tuck, social researcher and civil servant, born May 25, 1928; died October 20, 1996

Robert Crossman

# Gay pride of the mayor

**R**OBERT CROSSMAN, who has died of cancer aged 49, was a lifelong Labour Party activist and leader in the gay community and men's movement. Above all he was a tireless fighter against injustice and discrimination. He brought to all these activities what the author Tom Wakefield described as his "great histrionic ability" — a term Crossman loved.

He was committed to using politics as a vehicle for making real change. At 15 he faked his age to join the Labour Party and was an active member for more than 30 years, becoming a local

councillor in Altrincham in the 1970s. Following a period at Manchester Polytechnic as a mature student, he moved to London where he represented the Islington wards of Highview, Gillespie and Highbury for more than 12 years from 1982.

As a councillor he fought passionately for the development of education services and represented Islington on the Inner London Education Authority in the mid-1980s. Indeed, it was his decision to vote against cuts in Islington's under-five day care which almost lost him the Labour whip in 1984.

In 1986 he became mayor, a

role in which he could do one of the things he enjoyed most: celebrating the achievements of others. As a gay mayor who came out, Crossman became an important role model for many gay men as he took on his public office with delight, vigour and pride.

As a founder and chairman of the Islington lesbian and gay committee he constantly sought creative ways to involve lesbians and gay men more actively in local government, often taking meetings outside the town hall to make them more accessible. He had a thriving career in organisational development, working with local councils, Age Con-



Crossman... tireless fighter

cern, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux and many HIV-related organisations.

He celebrated his and others' sexuality with a passion and was a committed member of many organisations, including London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard,

Gay Man Fighting Aids, the National Aids Helpline and Food Chain, for whom he was a regular driver.

One of his most profound achievements was his work with men and his recognition of their resources of loving strength. Through workshops, groups and friendships he gave men the skills and confidence to achieve their caring potential, challenging many of the stereotypes we experience. He enjoyed his masculinity while committing himself to challenging all oppression. Hundreds of men's lives have been radically changed as a result of meeting him.

Diagnosed with bowel cancer in 1994, he characteristically took this on as a challenge to overcome. As a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence he changed his title to Mother "Kiss My Arse Goodbye" — reflecting the acceptance of

his diagnosis with both humour and strength.

He always believed in treating himself well and insisted on taking a holiday in Australia in 1995, prescribing himself the Gay Mardi Gras. At the beginning of 1996, not being able to find a cancer support group for men, he immediately established a new support group for men with cancer.

He kept a Che Guevara quote posted up in his home to remind himself of his true drive in every aspect of his life: "Let me say, at the risk of seeming ridiculous, that the true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love."

Robert O'Neill Crossman was just such a revolutionary and an inspiration to many.

Paul Devlin  
Robert O'Neill Crossman, politician, born March 7, 1947; died October 21, 1996

Jack Tinker

# A shining star in the stalls

**J**ACK TINKER, who has died aged 58, had been drama critic of the Daily Mail since 1971. He was also a columnist, broadcaster, author and a former in the great American tradition of Alexander Woollcott: he had only just returned from presenting his own anecdotal one-man show, *An Evening With Jack Tinker*, aboard the QE2. But above all, he was a great lover whose very presence lit up a room.

He was born in Oldham, educated at Hulme Grammar School for Boys and entered journalism in 1957 as a general reporter on the Surrey Advertiser. But it was as theatre and film critic of the Brighton Evening Argus from

1961 to 1969 that he made his name. Reports would filter back from actors on pre-West End tours to the Theatre Royal of a remarkable local character, author and former in the great American tradition of Alexander Woollcott: he had only just returned from presenting his own anecdotal one-man show, *An Evening With Jack Tinker*, aboard the QE2. But above all, he was a great lover whose very presence lit up a room.

What happened was that he became drama critic of the Daily Mail, following in the footsteps of Bernard Levin and Peter Lewis. Poetry would have been out of place. Tinker's great gift as a critic was that he wrote about theatre with enormous zest, knowledge and enthusiasm in a manner that appealed both to

the cognoscenti and to the Mail's wide readership. His overnight reviews were given an enormous splash on page three. Lately he also wrote an excellent theatre roundup and a characteristically witty personal column.

Robert Robinson dubbed drama critics "anonymous men who catch the last bus back to Muswell Hill". You could never say that of Jack. He was a natural performer who actually enjoyed a share of the limelight. He was a snappy dresser who liked to appear at a first night in the appropriate gear: he once turned up at Shakespeare's *Mistaken-Identities* play *The Comedy of Errors* with his own lookalike, Wayne Sleep, clad in identical clothes. One of my

fondest memories is also of appearing with him on the first British charity telethon where critics performed a party-piece: Tinker, needless to say, brought the house down with an inimitable rendering of Alice Blue Gown.

He was a natural traveller and a wonderful travelling companion: I have vivid recollections of him drinking his colleagues under the table in Stratford, Ontario, and of keeping dinner-tables in Perth and Sydney in a roar with accounts of his first hazardous trip to Australia (he had, uncharacteristically, turned up at Heathrow without a visa). But behind the love of fun there was also a serious side. He was a tireless worker for charity, a man of discerning



Tinker... natural extrovert

taste and a first-rate journalist who took pride in his versatility — something appreciated by the Mail, which sent him to cover events as diverse as the Labour Party's Sheffield Gala and boxing in America.

As a critic, he was not afraid to mingle with the stars. He was one himself and was at ease with the likes of Maggie Smith — whom he had once written an exhorting notice, later forgiven — Robert Stephens, Elton John

and Michael Barrymore. But, when he put pen to paper, he was fiercely independent. He also had the great capacity to make the theatre sound an exciting place to be and to write about it with a wit and intelligence, for a mass audience.

His personal life was shadowed by tragedy: he was haunted by the death of one of his three dearly-loved daughters. But he took great pride in being a grandfather, enjoyed to the hilt his dual residency of London and Brighton, found time to write a number of books, including one on *The TV Barons* and another on *Coronation Street*, and never wrote a dull sentence in his life. Not only will the heritage world of criticism be a much poorer place without him, the theatre itself will mourn his passing and his countless readers will feel that they too have lost a valued friend.

Michael Billington  
Jack Tinker, critic, born February 15, 1938; died October 28, 1996

Jackdaw



Frog revenge

**T**WO local men were seriously injured when their pick-up truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Park on State Highway 38 early Monday morning. Woodstock County Deputy Dave Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday. Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock are listed in serious condition at Baptist Medical Center. The accident occurred as the two men were returning to Des Arc after a frog gigging (catching) trip.

headlights malfunctioned. The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the .22 calibre bullet from his pistol fitted perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet, the headlights again began to operate properly and the two men proceeded on eastbound toward the White River Bridge. After travelling approximately 20 miles and just before the bridge, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged and struck Poole in the right testicle.

The vehicle swerved sharply to the right exciting the pavement and striking the tree. Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident, but will require surgery to repair the other wound. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released. "Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his nuts off or we might have been dead," stated Wallis.

From the Arkansas Democrat & Gazette, July 25.

Nerd man

**I**GET about 100 e-mail messages a day from readers of my comic strip "Dilbert" and a growing number are from women who write to say they think Dilbert is sexy. Some say they've already married a Dilbert and couldn't be happier. If you're not familiar with Dilbert, he's an electrical engineer who spends most of his time with his computer. He's a nice guy but not exactly Kevin Costner. So what's the attraction? I think it's a Darwinian thing. We're attracted to the people who have the best ability to survive and thrive. In the old days it was important to be able to run down an antelope and kill it with a single blow to the forehead. Now all that matters is if you can install your own Ethernet card without having to call tech support and confess your inadequacies to a stranger whose best career option is to work in tech support. It's obvious that the world has three dis-

tinct classes of people, each with its own evolutionary destiny: 1. Knowledgeable computer users who will evolve into godlike non-corporeal beings who rule the universe under the table in their work in tech support. 2. Computer owners who try to pass as knowledgeable but secretly use hand calculators to add totals to their Excel spreadsheets. This group will gravitate toward jobs as high school principals and operators of crematoriums. They will become extinct. 3. Non-computer users who will grow tails, sit in zoos, and fling dung at tourists.

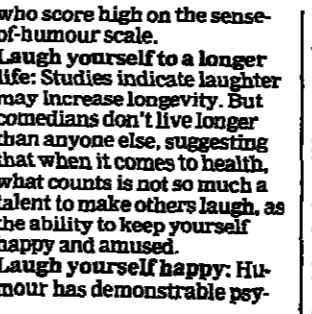
Obviously, if you're a woman and you're trying to decide which evolutionary track you want your offspring to take, you don't want to put them on the huge ride to the dung-throwing Olympics. You want a real man. You want a knowledgeable computer user with evolution potential. And women prefer men who listen. Computer users are excellent listeners because they can look at you for long periods of time without saying anything. Granted, early in a

relationship it's better if the guy scores high on the sense-of-humor scale. Laugh yourself to a longer life: Studies indicate laughter may increase longevity. But comedians don't live longer than anyone else, suggesting that when it comes to health, what counts is not so much a talent to make others laugh, as the ability to keep yourself happy and amused. Laugh yourself happy: Humour has demonstrable psy-

chological benefits. Telling a joke and laughing with others helps produce social cohesion and a feeling of belonging. This counteracts feelings of alienation, which can be a big factor in depression. In Bombay in India, there are now nearly 30 "laughing clubs" where members meet every day just to stand and laugh uproariously — at nothing. Laugh yourself slim and fit: William Fry, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Stanford University, says laughing 100 times is the aerobic equivalent of spending about 10 minutes on a rowing machine. Zest magazine warns us to all start chuckling a little more.

White skeleton

**I**N A shocking blunder, the White House successfully put pressure on Hotwired Magazine to stop linking President Clinton's name to this very web page. This was all done behind the scenes — we had no idea until we read Brock Meek's Netizen column of April 30. The White House official involved, David Lytel, was in charge of creating



Zest... laughter lines

Birthdays

Douglas Cameron, radio presenter, 63; George Davies, entrepreneur, founder of Next, 55; Angela Douglas, actress, 48; Lady (Joyce) Gould, former director of organization, Labour Party, 64; David Grundy, athlete, 24; Robert Hardy, actor, 71; Michael Jayston, actor, 61; R B Kitaj, artist, 64; Janet Trotter, college principal, 53; Jon Vickers, operatic tenor, 70; Galen Weston, youth services chairman, Fortnum and Mason, 56.

Death Notices

CHANCELLOR, Sylvia Mary, On October 28th, 1996, aged 82, passed away peacefully at St. James' Hospital, Newcastle, on Friday November 1st, 1996.

Memorial Services

FRANK — A memorial service for Paul Frank will be held at 11.00 am on Sunday, November 10th, at St. James' Church, Newcastle, NSW, Australia.

Births

NEWBORN, Johanna Elizabeth, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, on October 28th, 1996. A marvelous new baby girl.

Alliance of...

at-rate & boat wind

Argentina just wait to share in the oil

Emily Sheffield



Analysts say target of US firm's £766m offer is likely to seek white knight as takeover fever returns to sector. **Chris Barrie** reports

# Northern Electric raider faces battle

**T**AKEOVER fever reignited yesterday in the electricity industry in the wake of CalEnergy's announcement of a £766 million offer for Northern Electric.

In a dawn raid timed to coincide with the bid announcement, CalEnergy snapped up 12.7 per cent of Northern's shares at about £300 a share. The raid, carried out on behalf of CE Electric UK — the British company formed by CalEnergy for the takeover — forced Northern shares above the offer price of £300 to £310.

CalEnergy is also offering 103p for each preference share. There is a loan-note alternative.

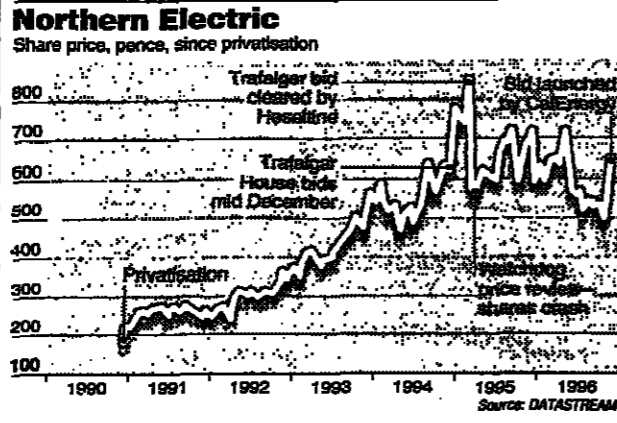
Analysts said the market was expecting CalEnergy to raise its offer, and that Northern may seek a white knight. Other US companies have been reported to be interested in buying UK electricity firms recently.

But one City source also pointed out that the likelihood of the bid being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was higher than in the past.

Warning that the market might be overcocky about the bid, he suggested that the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, could ask for a referral on the grounds that he is running out of independent electricity companies against which he can make comparisons when assessing costs and profits.

He added: "This is a super-sensitive time politically. Littlechild could give [Trade and Industry Secretary] Ian Lang the excuse he needs to refer the bid."

Offer, the regulatory body, declined to comment, saying that Prof Littlechild's advice to the Office of Fair Trading — which scrutinises bids and



advises the Trade and Industry Secretary — was confidential.

There was also surprise in the City that the bidders were relatively small and unknown. Describing CalEnergy and its construction industry partner, Kiewit, as "a two men and a dog operation",

## Friendly society may provide members with cut-price power

**F**AMILY Assurance, one of Britain's largest friendly societies, said yesterday it was considering supplying electricity to its 600,000 members as it unveiled a tie-up with Northern Electric to help people pay their bills, writes Richard Miles.

The mutual friendly society said it was "investigating the possibilities" of providing electricity at a discounted rate to members — most of whom are savers on low incomes — when the sector is opened up to competition in April 1998.

Marketing director Barry Chambers said Family Assurance was ideally placed to offer cheaper electricity because of its buying capacity, administrative and technological expertise, and low operating costs.

"Family believes that mutually should be of direct benefit to its members," he said.

Family announced a joint marketing venture with Northern Electric to promote a tax-free investment plan that will allow people to save for future energy bills. Called Energy Reserve, it is based on a personal equity plan.

formation following the company's battle to defend itself against Trafalgar House.

Mr Sokol said CalEnergy had been looking for a UK acquisition for about 18 months to complement its existing overseas businesses in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Northern's expertise in distributing and supplying electricity could be used elsewhere as the global market for electricity becomes deregulated. The power market was five times bigger than that of telecommunications, he added.

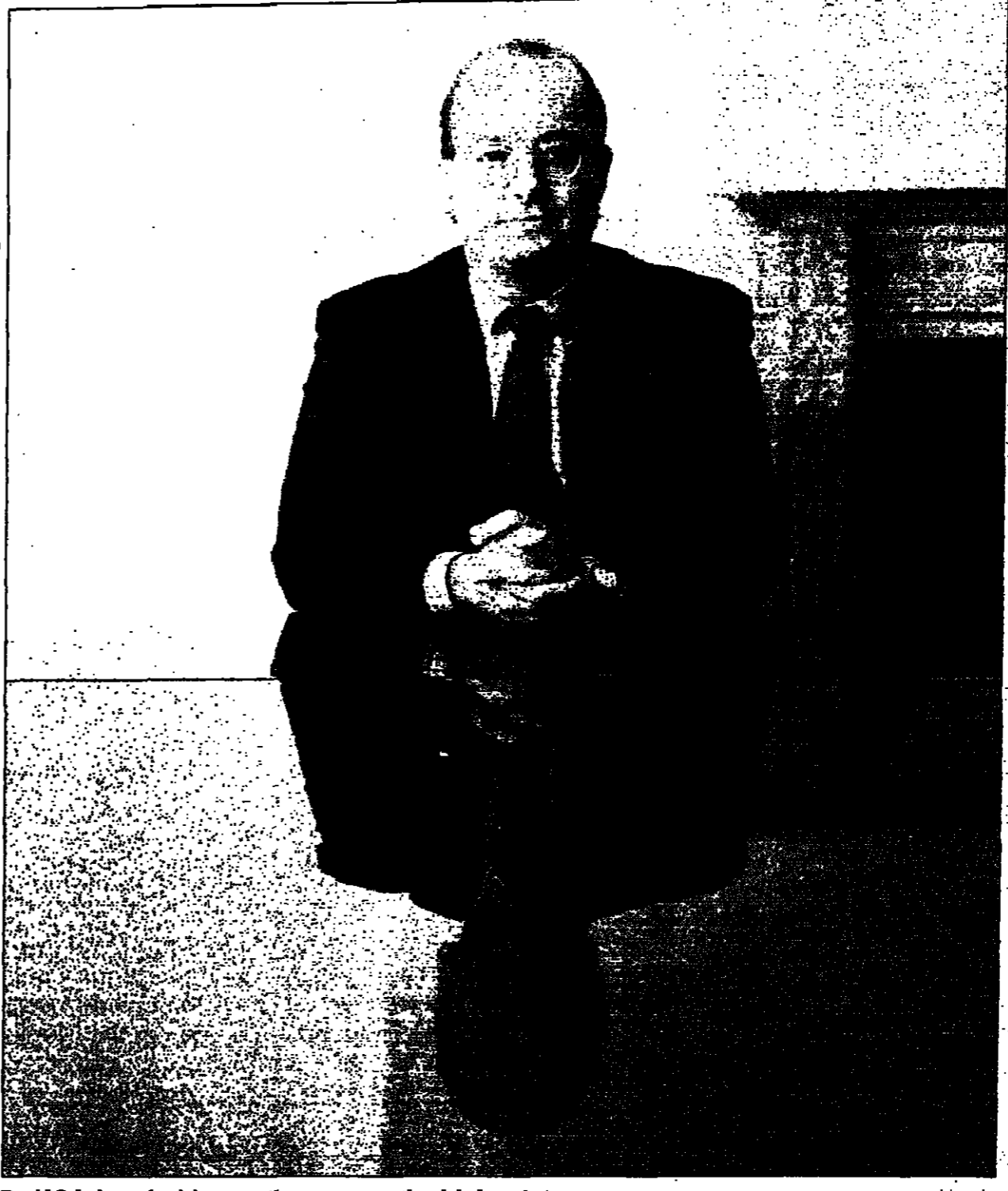
Acknowledging that the Northern takeover was the biggest abroad to be undertaken by the group to date, Mr Sokol said £500 million would come from the group's own funds, with a similar amount being provided from a loan led by Credit Suisse.

Although Northern's job-cutting programme would continue under CalEnergy ownership — 15 per cent of staff are to go in the distribution business by the year 2000 — Mr Sokol painted a picture of long-term growth rather than cost-cutting.

Pledging to keep operational management in place, he said: "Sometimes US people are least able to be sensitive to local cultures." In the Philippines, the company employed six expatriates and 294 locals, he said.

CalEnergy also operates in California, New York and Texas. The construction firm Peter Kiewit Sons owns 33 per cent of the group, and 30 per cent of CE Electric UK.

Analysts said the offer represented much the same value as Trafalgar House's offer in December 1994 of £10.50 a share, once Northern's hefty dividends paid to shareholders since then were taken into account.



David Sokol: emphasising growth prospects on the global market

# House price rises offer no hope to hard core in negative equity

**H**OPES that soaring house prices will kill off the burden of negative equity were dashed yesterday as it emerged that mortgage lending by Britain's major banks slowed last month.

Mortgage lenders admitted that the figures were unexpected, but they dismissed fears of the housing recovery being permanently stalled because prices have been artificially boosted by a shortage of properties on the market.

City analysts believe prices will continue to rise, but that will not be enough to save the hard core of people left with negative equity after the 1990s housing boom.

Figures from the British

Bankers' Association showed overall mortgage lending last month was £2,421 million, 12 per cent down on the August figure.

The seasonally adjusted figures for net lending showed a rise of £417 million in September against £507 million the previous month.

Although new approvals, used as a guide to future lending, were also down by 3.1 per cent in both quantity and value, BBA director general Tim Sweeney said: "It would be a mistake to read too much into a single month's figures."

The Nationwide Building Society Housing Finance Review, published yesterday, showed prices in the three months to the end of September were 9 per cent higher compared with the same period a year ago.

Nationwide said prices would rise by 7 per cent this year, with bigger gains likely in the London and the South-east.

The revival has, in the past nine months, more than halved the number of households with negative equity according to the latest research by UBS.

Some 184,000 households escaped the negative-equity trap during the third quarter of 1996. This leaves 594,000 homes still affected, down from 1,323,000 in the fourth quarter of last year and 1.2 million below the peak of the first quarter of 1993.

"The total value of negative equity in the UK fell by £900 million to £2.5 billion in the third quarter."

UBS forecast another one per cent rise in house prices by the end of this year, and a

# 2006 forecast says 'no increase in full-time jobs'

**H**ALF the extra 1.6 million jobs likely to be created over the next 10 years will come from greater self-employment.

The report says, while clerical jobs will be squeezed by new technology, based on a detailed breakdown of sectoral trends and commissioned by the Education and Employment Department, the Business Strategies report

expects total employment to increase from 25.4 million to 27 million.

But it forecasts almost no net increase in full-time jobs, and a drop of only 131,000 in the number of registered unemployed benefit claimants, to 1,990,000, over the next 10 years.

"The fastest rises in employment overall will be for professional workers such as lawyers, accountants

and even doctors," said director Richard Holt.

The report expects an additional 790,000 people to "opt for self-employment" by 2006 — pushed by the scarcity of full-time jobs and the continuing trend to contracting-out.

Of the 770,000 new jobs, 94 per cent are forecast to be part-time, with women expected to account for two-thirds of the growth.

# First-time buyers at bottom of market feel brunt

**T**HE HOUSEHOLDERS dooming to stay trapped by negative equity well into the next century are typically first-time home owners who bought "in the wrong regions at the wrong time", writes Jill Papworth.

Worst hit are those who bought properties at the bottom end of the market, such as converted studio and one-bedroom flats, starter homes and ex-council properties, in the south of England during

the late 1980s property boom, according to the UBS report.

First-timers who bought in East Anglia at the peak in the fourth quarter of 1988, for example, paid an average of £83,000 for a home now worth just £44,000. Their property values would have to rise by 43 per cent to release them from negative equity.

These are average figures for the region, so some people, particularly those with smaller flats or cheap

starter homes for which there is now limited demand, are a lot worse off than that," says Rob Thomas.

Smaller properties are hard to sell because the drop in house prices and mortgage rates means that today's generation of first-time buyers can afford two or three bedroom houses. "They don't need to start at the bottom rung," Mr Thomas says. Escape options for severely affected households are few.

# 10.5%\*

minimum guaranteed annual bonus rate

## News in brief

### Air France's riposte to BA

**A**IR FRANCE yesterday threatened to thwart British Airways' chances of consolidating its foothold in France by signalling a readiness to buy the troubled domestic airline Air Outre Mer, writes Keith Harper.

Christian Blanc, chairman of Air France, said this would be one way to offset increased competition on French routes if BA succeeds in buying Air Liberté, another ailing French carrier, which has debts of £300 million.

BA and its French subsidiary, TAT, expect a decision tomorrow on whether they have succeeded in their bid for Air Liberté, which has 12 per cent of the French domestic market.

A commercial court will decide whether Air Liberté should be liquidated or offered to outside bidders — which include Richard Branson's Virgin Express as well as BA.

Joining forces with Air Liberté would give TAT 22 per cent of landing slots at Orly airport in Paris, against Air France's 37 per cent.

## Banks taken to task

**F**OUR out of five of the UK's small and medium-sized businesses believe they are getting poor financial advice from their banks, according to a survey published today by accountancy firm Arthur Andersen, writes Pauline Springett.

Richard Young, a partner with Andersen subsidiary Binder Hamlyn, says the high level of dissatisfaction is evidence of an expectation gap between banks and their clients. He explains

## Murdoch in \$1bn delay

**R**ICHARD MURDOCH'S News Corporation has delayed plans to raise \$1 billion (£620 million) in cash against its 40 per cent holding in BSkyB, writes Lisa Buckingham.

Analysts said the move was to allow the market price of the satellite operator to stabilise and improve after first-quarter figures, to be announced on day.

Shares in BSkyB slumped by 14 per cent to 589p last week after the Murdoch plan to offer exchangeable preference shares in the TV group appeared to signal that the tycoon thought BSkyB's shares had reached a medium-term peak.

The delay will allow BSkyB's price to settle or make some gains — shares rose 5p to 597 1/2p yesterday.

There was a danger that stock market rules might be breached if terms of the \$1 billion convertible issue were announced in the run-up.

Although News Corporation has not earmarked the \$1 billion, analysts believe it is destined to bolster the group's digital TV expansion.

## Credit card protection stays

**T**HE Government yesterday rejected advice from the Office of Fair Trading to reduce the liability of credit card issuers when reimbursing customers for defective goods or services, writes Lina Saigol.

Instead it announced that protection to consumers who use credit cards would remain the joint responsibility of the card issuer and the retailer.

### The Norwich with Profits Bond.

Investors who invest in this bond will receive a minimum annual bonus rate up to 10.5%.

Amount of investment	Minimum guaranteed annual bonus rate
£50,000 and over	10.5%
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These rates will apply in full if you invest on 4 November 1996. The actual amount of bonus, although not the rate, will be lower if you invest at a later date. A monthly limited administration charge of 0.08% of the value of five units will be made for the first 6 years from the start of the bond. This will have the effect of reducing the minimum guaranteed annual bonus rates shown.

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Investments may be subject to an early cash in charge and a market adjustment factor, which if applied would reduce the amount you get back from the bond. The minimum guaranteed annual bonus rate will only apply to units remaining at the end of 1 November 1997. Future bonus rates cannot be guaranteed and may vary. All telephone calls are charged at local rates. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. Any advice given in or out of office by this advertisement relates only to the products of Norwich Union. The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.



Soccer

Venerable eyes Blackburn job

Martin Thorpe

TERRY VENABLES is understood to be considering becoming Blackburn Rovers' new manager...

become a major Premiership force. He recently rejected the chance to take over at QPR...

to replace Ray Harford with someone they believe is the best manager for the job after England's success in Euro 96...

Boro keep hold of Barmby

Mark Redding

NICK BARMBY could be staying at Middlesbrough after the club said yesterday that they had yet to receive an offer for the occasional England striker...

the top flight are usually allowed to bring in loan players only from lower divisions...

would not threaten the development of Stamford Bridge. "We do have other loans and other shareholders and we are continually talking to people who want to be part of the Chelsea story..."

Pallister and Butt likely to miss Fenerbahce return

ALEX FERGUSON's plan for Manchester United's Champions League return with Fenerbahce at Old Trafford tomorrow has been disrupted by worrying knee injuries to Gary Pallister and Nicky Butt...

ably twisted his knee and tweaked the ligaments. We need to give him a couple of weeks off to let it clear up completely...

Rangers minus a whole team to face the might of Ajax

Patrick Glenn

IF THERE is such a thing as consolation for a club that has sustained three successive defeats in the Champions League...



Buoyant on the Tyne... 'I'm not unhappy, my wife is not unhappy with life in Newcastle or England,' says David Ginola

Chic radical on Newcastle's left

Michael Walker finds a resurgent David Ginola committed to overturning Ferencvaros' 3-2 lead in tonight's Uefa Cup return leg

IT IS because he is rich, is it because he is handsome or is it because he is an exceptional footballer? Whatever the explanation, everyone wants a piece of David Ginola...

privacy, you have to respect her as a mum with children. Ginola's defence of the Princess of all our hearts was a little surprising as seconds earlier the Frenchman's critique of English society included a demolition of the Princess's former mother-in-law...

Arthur Scargill tattoo underneath his black and white jersey, because Ginola's attitude towards his fame and his wealth is reassuringly realistic. "People say that you can be happy without money but that's wrong. There are two things that drive this world: sex and money. Everyone can have sex with most people do...

different. In Paris I could go shopping with my wife but I can't do that in Newcastle because everywhere I go I have to sign autographs. So my wife has to do everything and that's boring for her. It's easier for me. It has also become easier on the pitch since Ginola's recent 2-2-2-2-2-2 with Kevin Keegan. Since the arrival of Alan Shearer the Frenchman had felt overwhelmed by defensive duties that negated his natural inclinations...

don't enjoy it. I thought I was defending too much compared to last year. He understands me and since the Man United game I have felt more comfortable. "It's good to be able to talk to him [Keegan] but not too much. I must respect him as my manager." That mutual understanding extended to the Barcelona episode during the summer. Barcelona displayed an interest and Ginola responded but the transfer never happened. But, said Ginola, Keegan understood the temptation "because he's been in that position himself". A move, he said, may come but his immediate future is pledged to playing for Newcastle in England and in Europe. Tonight he does both when Newcastle face Ferencvaros in the return leg of the Uefa Cup tie.

'We live in a world where people use money the wrong way. In England that is very apparent'

ture in the world, then you have the workers," he said before adding with a rhetorical flourish: "And that's the image of England all over the world."

Admittedly watching from behind his own privileged, frosted windows in the 15 months since his switch from Paris to Tyneside Ginola has noted the gulf between the haves and the have-nots in England and is well enough acquainted with the moral panic sweeping the nation to sit on Labour's front bench.

not have money, and that makes them unequal. "If you respect money you can do great things to help people but we live in a world where people use money the wrong way. In England that is very apparent."

My confidence returned a bit. We have a different way since the club bought Alan Shearer. I have to play more in midfield but that's all we've changed. I think I've found my right place — at one stage I lost my view of my proper role. "I tried to help defend but I will always be a striker. I said to the manager, 'You can't get the best from me if I

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA CHALLENGER PREMIERSHIP, NATIONALE LEAGUE, and SECOND DIVISION, listing teams and their predicted outcomes.

Baseball

Table with columns for Major League Baseball teams and their predicted outcomes.

Results

Table with columns for Soccer, American Football, and Golf, listing match results.

Fixtures

Table with columns for Soccer, American Football, and Ice Hockey, listing upcoming fixtures.

Team talk

Table with columns for Arsenal, Aston Villa, Blackburn, Birm. City, Bolton, Brentford, Burnley, Chelsea, Coventry City, Derby County, Everton, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Leeds, Liverpool, Luton, Middlesbrough, Millwall, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottm. Forest, QPR, Sheffield, Southampton, Stoke, Sunderland, Tottenham, Walsley, Wimbledon, Wolves, Yeovil, and York, listing their fixtures.

Ice Hockey

Table with columns for Ice Hockey leagues and teams, listing fixtures.

Motor Sport

The Jordan Formula One driver Martin Brundle is to compete in a semi-works Ford Escort Cosworth in the RAC Rally which starts from Chester on November 23, writes Alan Henry.

Storm struck by penalties

The Manchester Storm coach John Lawless voiced his concern at the number of needless penalties his players are taking after the team slid to their second Superleague defeat of the weekend. Following Saturday's 5-3 defeat in Newcastle they spent down 7-3 at home to the leaders Sheffield Steelers on Sunday.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring text like 'England looks like a Shaw' and 'River touch'.

Rugby Union

England cap looks like a Shaw thing

Jill Turner meets the Bristol lock who is back in the frame after injury

UNTIL the age of 21 the Bristol lock Simon Shaw had led a charmed life. Discovered as a schoolboy and lured off the soccer pitch by rugby coaches eager to utilise his gift...

Then disaster struck. Shaw all but wrecked his right knee turning out for England A against Italy in February 1995 and was out of action for six months...

While he took another six months to recover from the surgery needed to rebuild his leg, the Newcastle lock Gareth Archer stepped into the England place that might have been Shaw's when the incumbent lock Martin Bayfield was dropped.

But, now injury-free and an attendant at England training sessions this year, Shaw is determined to win that cap. With Bayfield possibly out for the season with a pelvic problem, this could be his moment as England face Italy on November 23.

"Up till a few years ago I'd had a pretty charmed life - just sort of up, up, up," says Shaw. "Then came the injuries which set me back. Martin Johnson was No. 1, Martin Bayfield No. 2 and I was in the frame at three. But with me out and Bayfield not having the best of seasons, Gareth Archer leaptfrogged in."

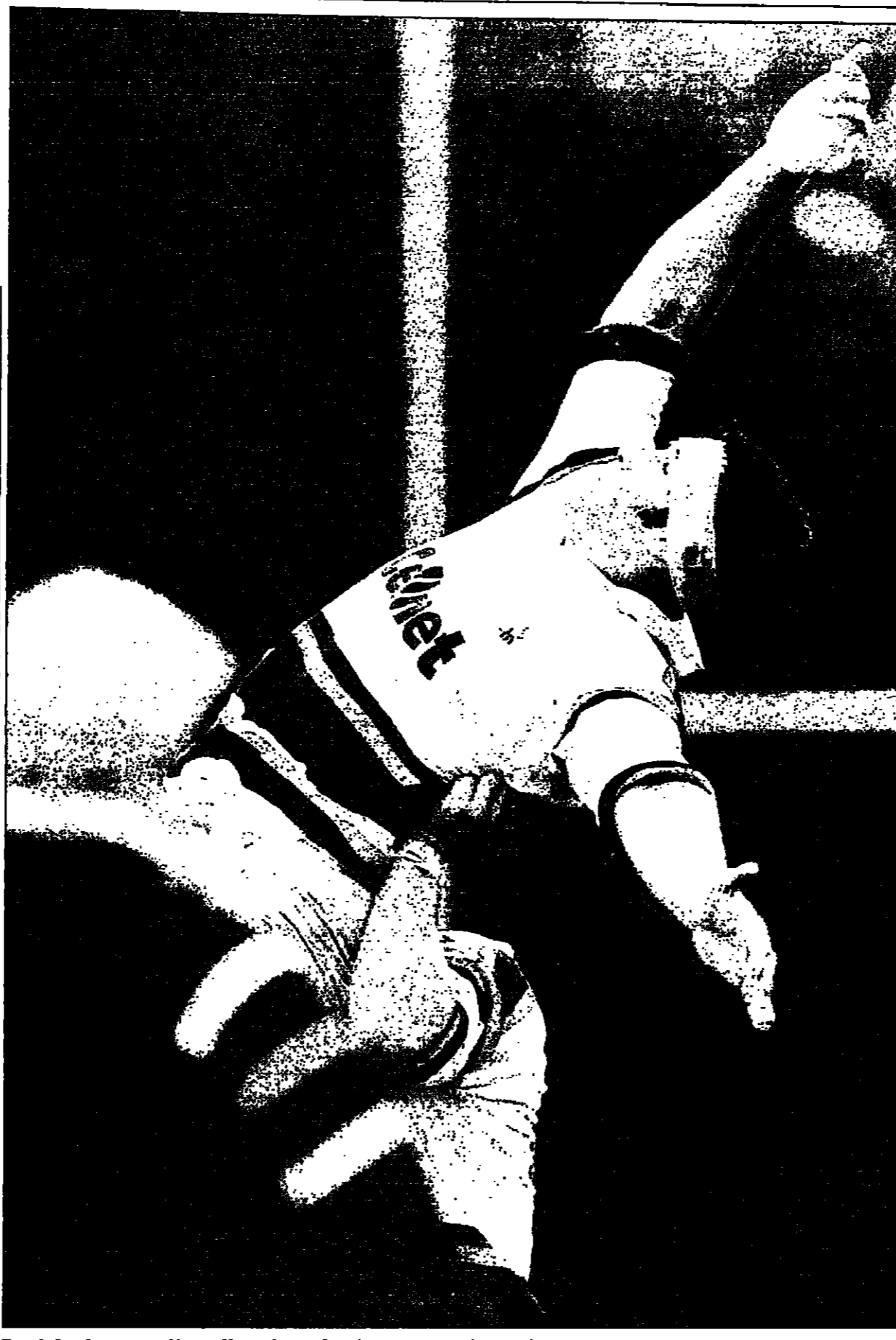
Large he was spotted by the captain of the Dunedin Pirates, who suggested Shaw join him in Otago for a year. "It was the best launching pad I could have had. In the Otago league there were 10 or 15 of the All Blacks, so I was playing against people like Arran Pena, Mark Ellis, Steve Bachop and Jeff Wilson. It was not harder, a lot faster and professional in the attitude to training. You were expected to be there every evening and fitness was monitored to the extent that the coach would drive around checking to see if his players were out running."

"But what struck me most was the way each player was totally multi-skilled and versatile. Forwards were expected to have the hands and pace of a back and the backs expected to get stuck in along with the forwards. I enjoyed that. I don't think I'd want to play any more if I was just expected to jump in the line-out and push in the scrum."

"When I come off the pitch I will be disappointed if I haven't run with the ball in hand or made some other contribution," Shaw expects to make such a contribution tonight when Bristol face their old adversaries Bath. His injury-hit team will need him, having never beaten Bath in a Courage League game and getting a 43-5 pasting the last time they met.

Shaw says his own versatility makes him a different England prospect from Archer, who he believes is more of a traditional straight up and down player. It is this strength that the Bristol coach Alan Davies thinks will win that elusive cap.

"England are well off for locks," said Davies. "But he has a lot more to offer and playing for England will bring that out of him." Davies is not the only one who expects to see Shaw's name when the squad for the Italy game is announced next week. But the big man has learnt to leave matters in the hands of the gods.



Reach for the cap... Simon Shaw, free at last from injury, is hoping for an England call next week

TOM JENKINS

Rugby League

Low blow as Lindsay pans Kiwis

Andy Wilson in Christchurch

THE financial embarrassment of the Lions' tour, with an anticipated loss of up to £500,000, yesterday elicited contrasting responses from officials in Britain and New Zealand.

While Mike Knowles of the NZRL was guaranteeing the British manager Phil Lowe the money he needed to pay the players their weekly tour allowance, Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby League chief executive, was blaming the Kiwis for the cash crisis.

Lowe stressed after his conversation with Knowles that his earlier complaints had been aimed at the poor promotion of the Test series and that his only financial grouse had been with Rugby League headquarters in Leeds, whose cost-cutting agenda was most clearly shown last week when 11 players were ordered home without consulting either him or Phil Larder, the coach.

Lindsay, however, pointed the finger at New Zealand. In a prepared statement he said: "The financial projections of gate receipts given to us by the NZRL have been widely [sic] optimistic to say the least. When New Zealand invited us to tour we reminded them of the losses suffered in 1990. We were assured that this would not happen again. I should not criticise the NZRL's marketing of the game. Perhaps they do, however, need to revise their strategy."

The losses are particularly embarrassing to Lindsay himself because the tour is the first major international project organised under the Super League banner; its promotion in New Zealand being entrusted to Graham Carden, the man most responsible for the NZRL embracing Super League.

Despite sympathetic media coverage, the promotion of the tour locally has been virtually non-existent. Larder said yesterday: "It's as if we have been an embarrassment. We've got blazers, flannels and ties and we've not bloody worn them yet because we've not been to anything that warrants getting our make-up on. Nobody at all from the NZRL has contacted us since we have been here."

While most of the blame must be with the Kiwis and Carden, it is naive of Lindsay to be surprised by the poor attendances. As Bernie Wood, a member of the NZRL board, pointed out, Lindsay managed the last major tour in 1990. He also criticised the British party for staying at the most expensive hotels in Auckland and Christchurch and pointed out that there is no tradition locally for watching rugby league in October, when people are more likely to be "planting potatoes and tomatoes".

All this must have had an unsettling effect on the British players, who at Lancaster Park here on Friday must win the third Test to avoid their first whitewash by New Zealand since 1984, and only their second ever.

However, their injury crisis should clear sufficiently to obviate the need to retrain Tullon Bronco, halfback Tullon Tollet, one of the 11 originally sent home, who is on holiday in Sydney.

Keighley chairman threatens to quit over victimisation claims

THE Keighley chairman Carl Metcalfe yesterday threatened to quit the game unless the Rugby Football League relents and allows two fellow directors to remain on the club's board.

Metcalfe is expected to be re-appointed chairman later this week when the administrator Peter O'Hara, whom the club called in after revealing debts of £1 million, announces a new board. But, in accordance with RFL regulations, the directors Mike Smith and Alan Clarkson have been told to make way for new directors.

The South African RFL yesterday denied a report of a player revolt over wages of the Springbok tour of Argentina, France and Wales. It was claimed that players were demanding a 75 per cent pay increase for the tour, starting in Argentina early next month, with leading Springboks seeking an additional £290 per day.

Metcalfe is expected to be re-appointed chairman later this week when the administrator Peter O'Hara, whom the club called in after revealing debts of £1 million, announces a new board. But, in accordance with RFL regulations, the directors Mike Smith and Alan Clarkson have been told to make way for new directors.

Lynagh returns for Saracens, Robinson switches for Bath

MICHAEL LYNAGH, out with injury since early last month, returns for Saracens tonight when the London side host Northampton in League One.

The former Australian stand-off dislocated his shoulder in only his second match for Saracens but he has proved his recovery by

coming through a couple of recent friendlies without reaction. Bath have switched their Wigan wing Jason Robinson to full-back for tonight's League One derby against Bristol at the Recreation Ground.

Robinson replaces Jonathan Callard, who failed a test on the hip injury he suffered while inspiring the European Cup victory over Dax. Mike Catt takes over goal-kicking duties.

Golf

Scots lose their Open

David Davies

ONE of golf's most evocative tournaments is no more. The Scottish Open, until two years ago one of the success stories of the PGA European Tour, has been killed off by a mixture of politics, a mistaken policy, its place in the calendar, in the week before the Open Championship, is to be taken by the Loch Lomond World Invitational.

The BBC will give Loch Lomond nationwide coverage until 2000, adding the event to a portfolio that includes the Open Championship, the World Match Play and the Volvo PGA Championship. Whether the Royal and Ancient will be happy about a lucrative event taking place the week before its championship and overshadowing its prize fund by around £750,000 is doubtful.

Two years ago the Scottish Open, which had been sponsored by Bell's, finished a highly successful eight-year run at Glensage. It had attracted huge crowds, good fields, including Americans trying to qualify for the Open, and BBC coverage. That all changed when the European tour sold off a number of events to BSKYB, including the Scottish Open.

Bell's dropped out, the event was moved to Carnoustie and there was a drop in interest, the quality of the field and attendances. Commercial interest was negligible and the tournament began to lose money.

Hockey

Norton roll out the green carpet

Pat Rowley

NORTON, from Cleveland, will be able to celebrate the laying of their own artificial pitch in some style after being drawn at home to Canterbury, the National League Premier side, in the third round of the FA Cup on Sunday week.

Cricket

England A face spin doctoring

England A face spin doctoring

ENGLAND have suffered badly against wrist spinners in Test series during recent years and that fact is likely to play on the minds of the A team when the opening match of their seven-week Australian tour begins on Thursday.

Hockey

Gallacher resigns plum job as Wentworth professional

Alister Nicol

BERNARD GALLACHER has resigned as the professional at Wentworth, widely regarded as the top club job in Britain. The former Ryder Cup captain, who led Europe to victory last year, leaves at the end of the year. He says "there is nothing sinister" behind his decision.

Tennis

Silver touch eludes Bruguera on everyman's carpet

Richard Jago in Paris

THE silver medal won by Sergel Bruguera in Atlanta in August has yet to inspire a recovery from the Catalan, who two years ago came close to becoming the first Spaniard to top the world rankings. Yesterday even the environs of Bruguera's favourite tennis city, where he won successive French Open titles, were not enough to inspire him to

the rhythmic rallying which once mesmerised clay-court opponents, and he was well beaten 6-4, 6-3 by the leading Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the first round of the Paris Open.

Bruguera had to adjust to a Taraflex carpet which was just quick enough to encourage the Frenchman's fierce first serve. There was also some disconcertingly shrill support for Pioline in the curiously distracting Palais des Omnisports.

But Bruguera's biggest obstacle was within himself. Though he has recovered from the knee injury and operation which sent him slithering off the net cord, and a running dinked pass on the backhand.

Pioline saved a break-point in the opening game of the second set with a forcing first serve, and that was the end of Bruguera's challenge.

Pioline now meets Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the fourth seed, while the former Olympic champion Marc Rosset, another first-round winner, becomes the first opponent of the No. 1 seed Pete Sampras.

Rosset has never quite reached the heights of drama or depth of commitment he discovered that burningly oppressive day in Barcelona in 1992 when he came back from exhaustion to win gold. But he is still a dangerous customer and his big first serve yesterday projected nine aces in a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Alex Corretja.

It was Rosset's first victory over the Spaniard, who had beaten him twice on clay, and yet the 130 mph Swiss serve was returnable on this combination of synthetics which offers most players a chance to impose their styles.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, won the first set of his first-round match against Carlos Moya, the Spaniard who, at No. 24, is one above him in the world rankings, only to go down 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

A decorative graphic element featuring a row of stars and a quote: "Fritz Figpot, from Frankfurt, had a dream to grow the world's largest potato. 'Bigger! Bigger!' he whispered for 15 hours a day, coaxing the spud with promises of greatness." Below the quote is a small illustration of a potato.

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